手塚治虫 漫画全集

アラバスター

2

手塚治虫漫画全集　90

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ALABASTER

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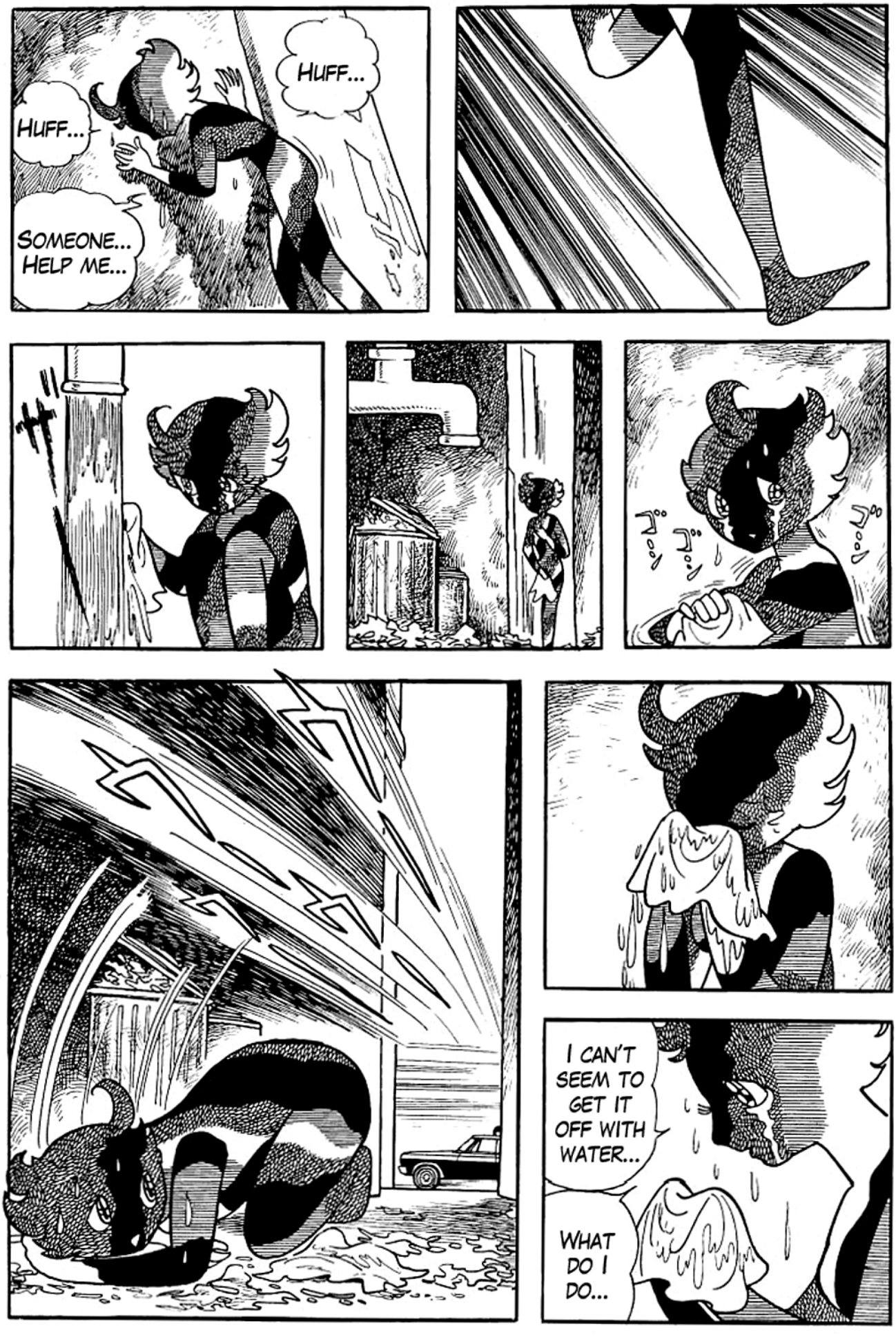
Chapter 6
Clown's Head

Hello? This is F.B.I. agent Rock Holmes.
A female culprit just got away from me.
She's nude but her body's painted all over like a clown. It should be quite easy to spot her at a glance from even far away.
Even if she finds some clothes to wear, her painted face should still make her stand out.
Set up a perimeter and have as many agents as possible out looking for her. The clown might also have comrades coming to pick her up so keep an eye out for them too!
Remember, don't let her escape! Al-right, I leave the rest to your hands.


HUFF...
HUFF...
SOMEONE... HELP ME...
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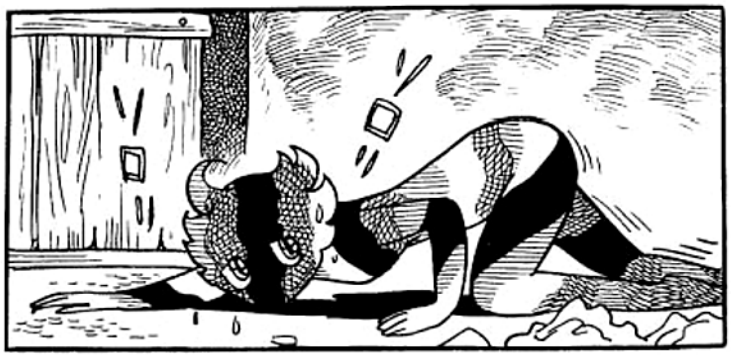
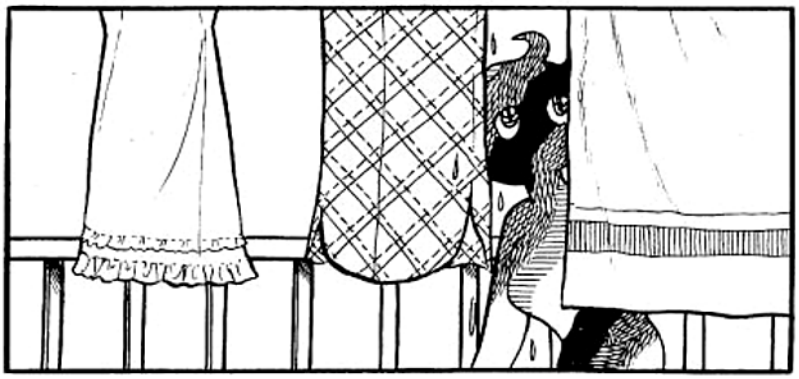
I CAN'T SEEM TO GET IT OFF WITH WATER...
WHAT DO I DO...

NOTHIN' BUT TRASH HERE. LET'S GO LOOK OVER THERE.
WHAT ABOUT THIS ALLEY?





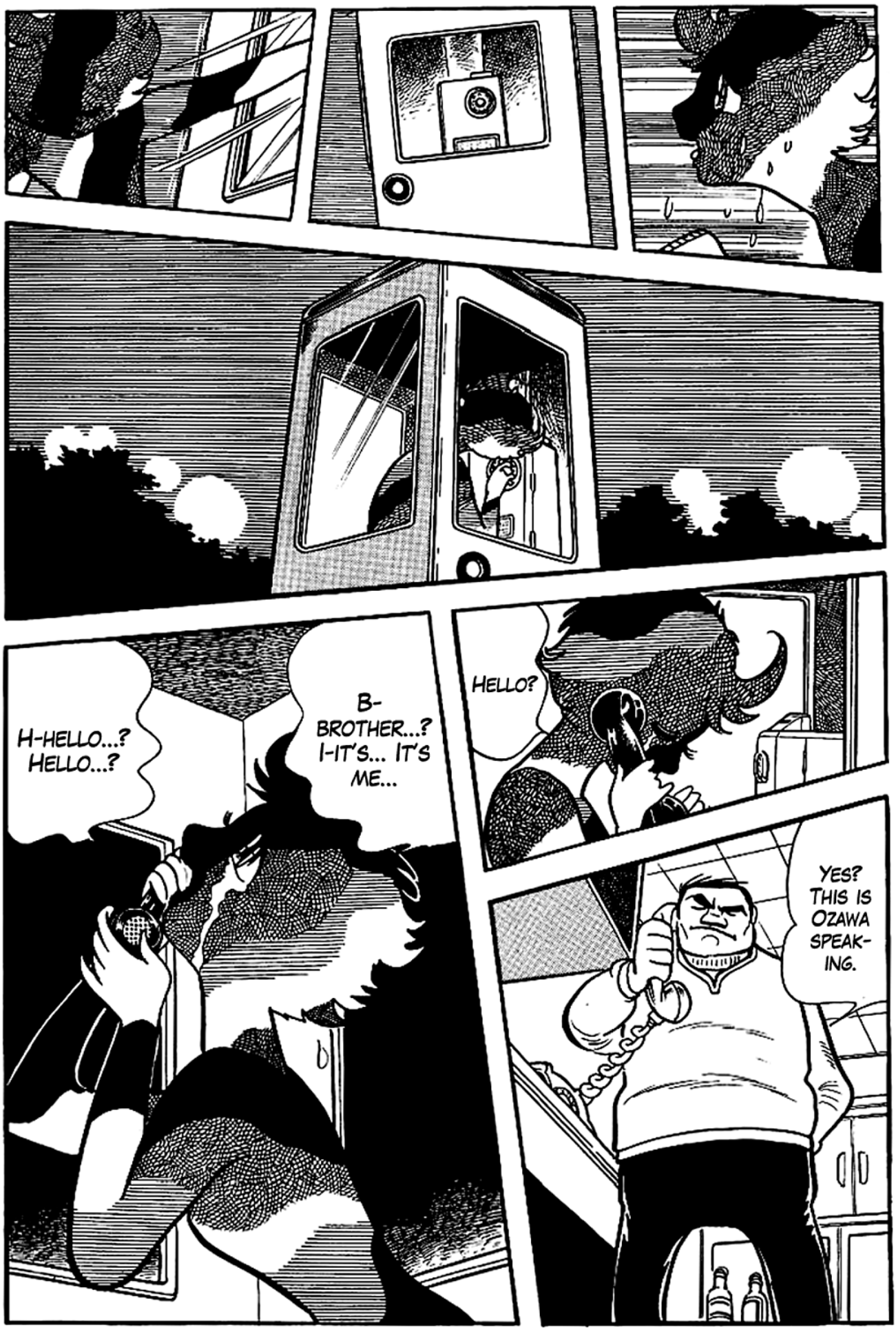
NGHH...

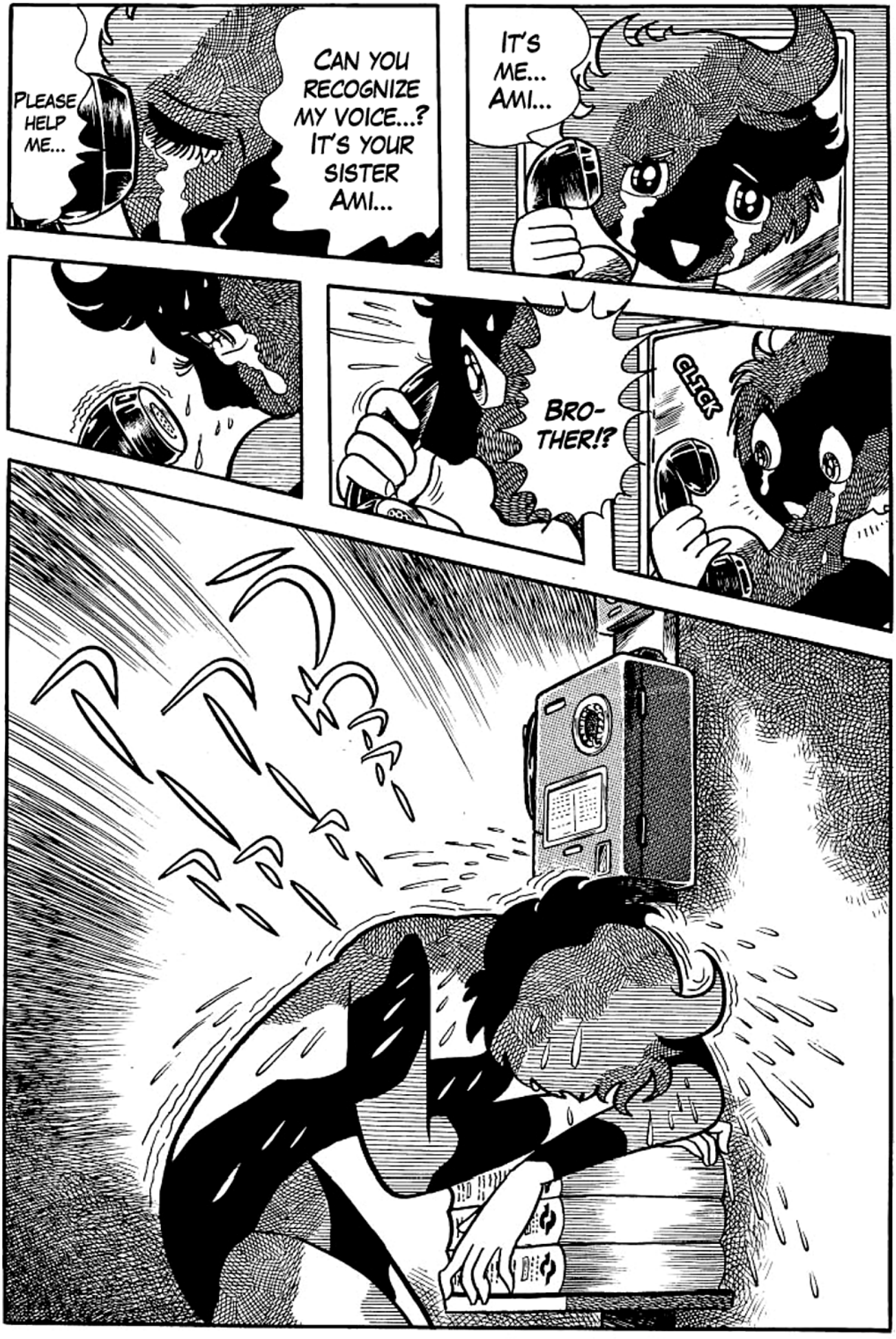
HM?
WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT FOR ME TO ASK... AN ODD QUESTION?
COME IN.
EXCUSE ME, SIR.
WHAT ABOUT IT?
LAC-QUER?
WHAT CAN REMOVE LACQUER PAINT?
GAHHH!
I NEED TO KNOW HOW TO REMOVE IT.
I SUP-POSE YOU COULD TRY WASHING WITH WARM WATER AND PAINT THINNER.
WHAT, DID YOU GET SOME ON YOUR CLOTHES? IT'S QUITE HARD TO REMOVE, Y'KNOW.

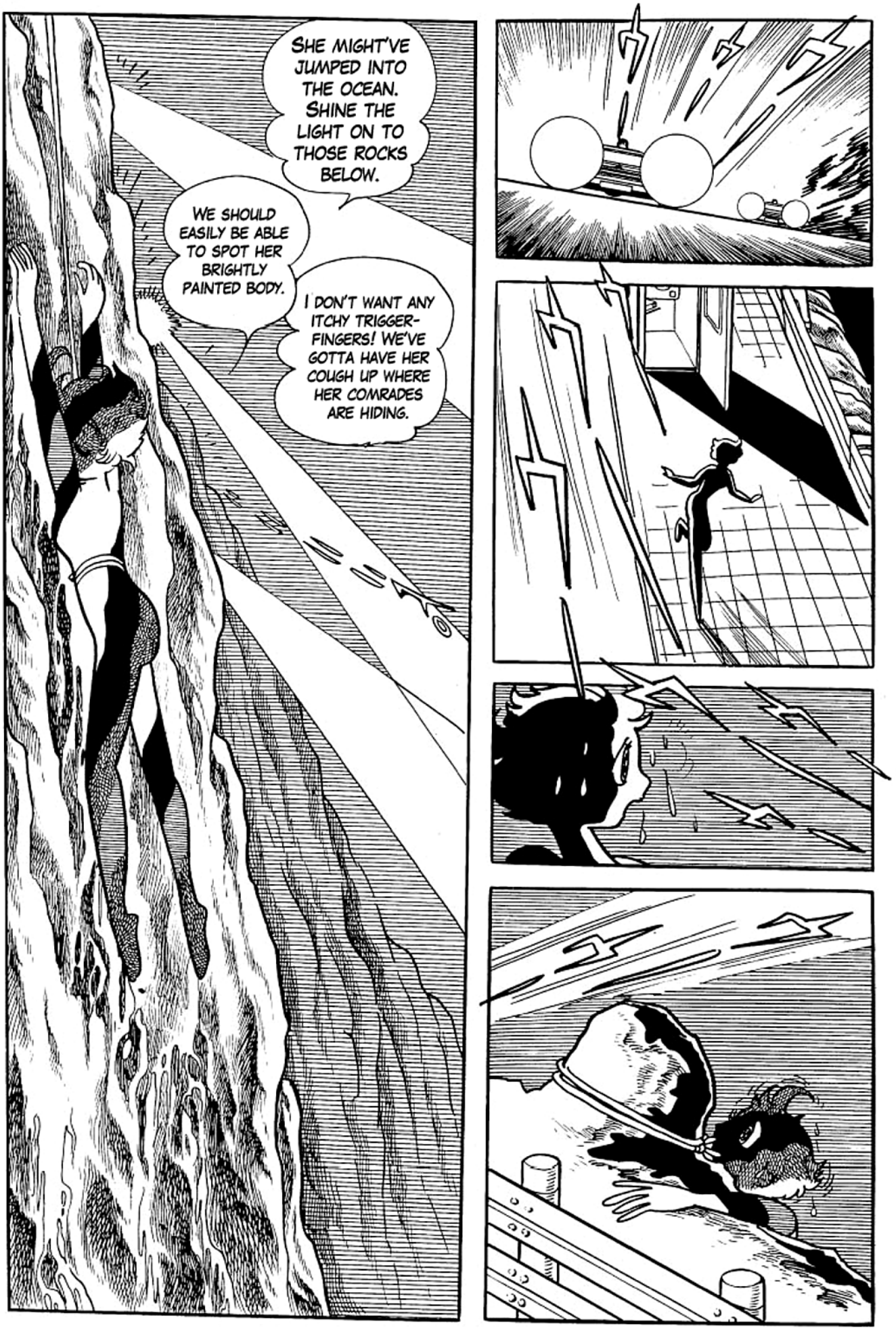
ATTENTION, CITIZENS! A FEMALE CRIMINAL IS CURRENTLY ON THE LOOSE IN THE CITY. SHE'S DESCRIBED AS HAVING HER WHOLE BODY PAINTED WITH LACQUER. IF YOU SEE ANYBODY MATCHING THAT DESCRIPTION, TAKE CAUTION AND ALERT THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY!
I'M SORRY.
P-PLEASE JUST GET OUT OF MY STORE... YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT.
W-W-WHA...
I'M SORRY... BUT I REALLY NEED THAT THINNER... PLEASE LEND ME SOME...
H-HEY! GET THE THINNER!

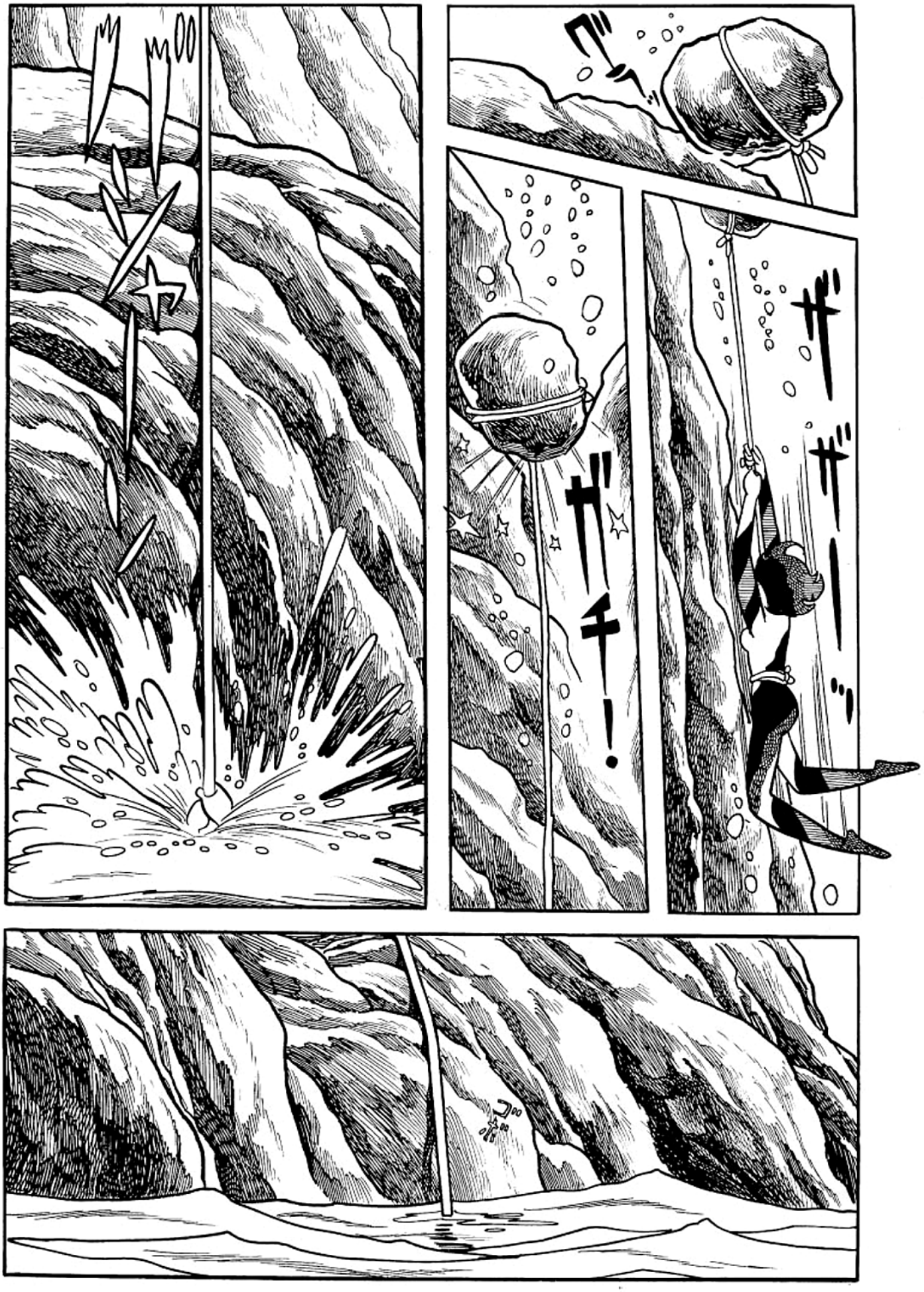
HERE.
OFFICERS!
THE ONE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS IN MY HOUSE!
ガラーン!
AGHHH!
SHE'S WEARING CLOTHES BUT IT'S HER ALRIGHT!

I HEAR THE POLICE ARE CORNERING SOME SUSPECT! LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT!
WHAT'S WRONG?
GEE!
YEAH, SHE LOOKS UN-ARMED.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE HAS ANY WEAPONS.
WHOA, IT'S A CHICK!
OVER THERE!
THROW ROCKS AT HER!
HEY, WE'VE GOTTA DO OUR PART AS CITIZENS!
HEEELP!


H-HELLO...? HELLO...?
B-BROTHER...? I-IT'S... IT'S ME...
HELLO?
YES? THIS IS OZAWA SPEAK-ING.


PLEASE HELP ME...
CAN YOU RECOGNIZE MY VOICE...? IT'S YOUR SISTER AMI...
IT'S ME... AMI...
BRO-THER!?
CLICK


SHE MIGHT'VE JUMPED INTO THE OCEAN. SHINE THE LIGHT ON TO THOSE ROCKS BELOW.
WE SHOULD EASILY BE ABLE TO SPOT HER BRIGHTLY PAINTED BODY.
I DON'T WANT ANY ITCHY TRIGGER-FINGERS! WE'VE GOTTA HAVE HER COUGH UP WHERE HER COMRADES ARE HIDING.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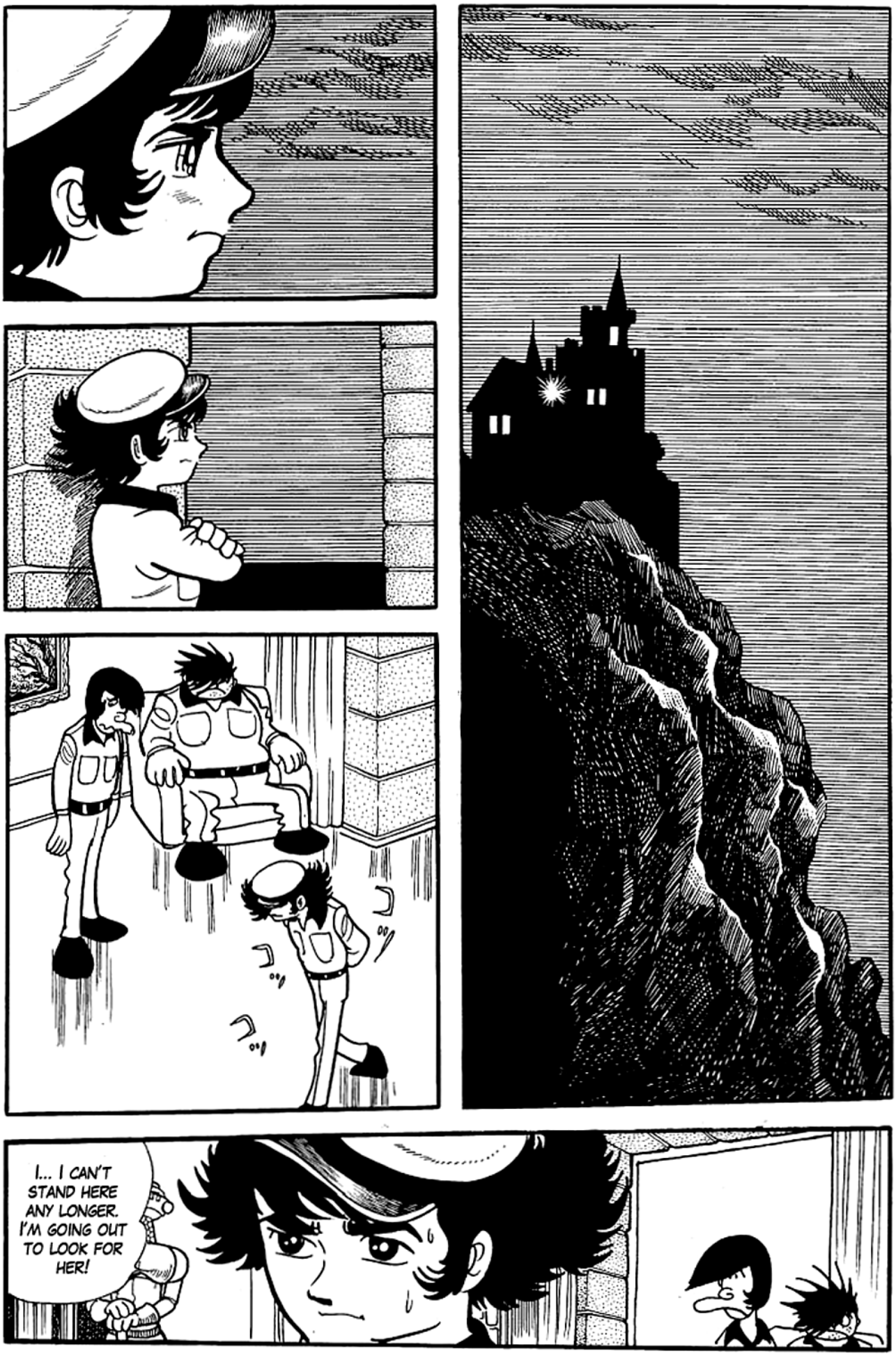
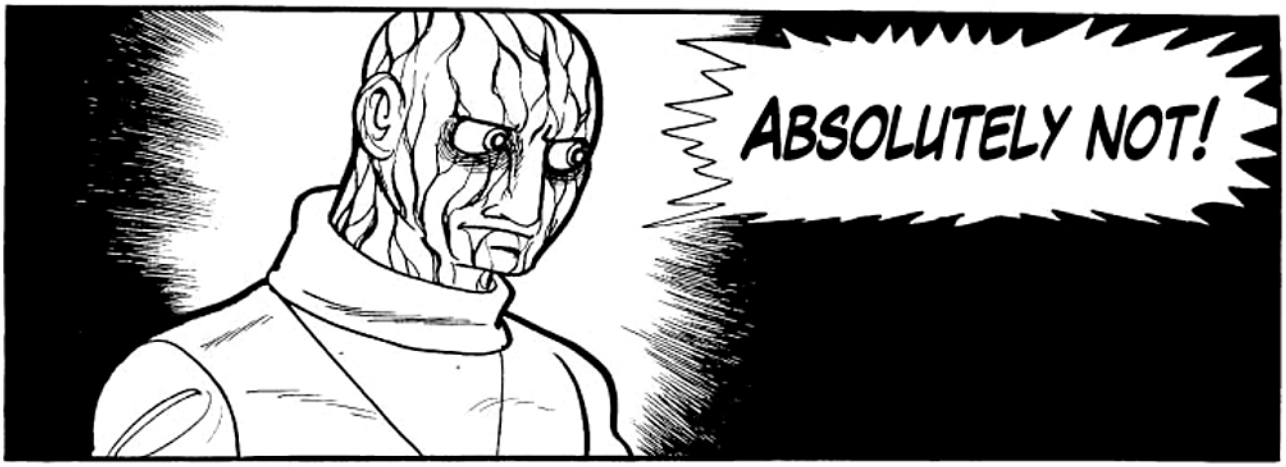
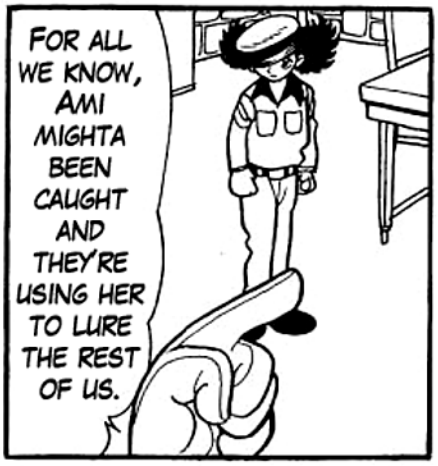

I... I CAN'T STAND HERE ANY LONGER. I'M GOING OUT TO LOOK FOR HER!

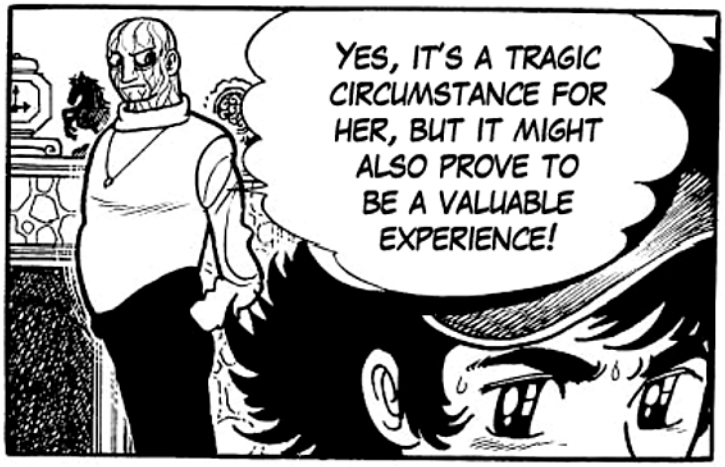

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

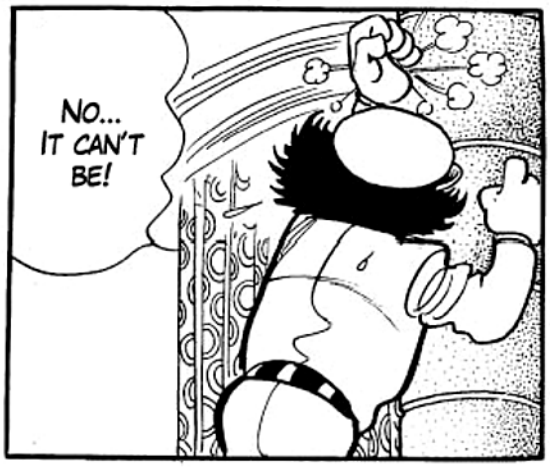
SO IF YOU GO OUT, THAT'LL BE 'NOTHER THING TO WORRY ABOUT.
ROCK'S ALREADY SEEN YOUR FACE.
ARE YOU JUST GONNA LET AMI DIE SOMEWHERE OUT THERE!?

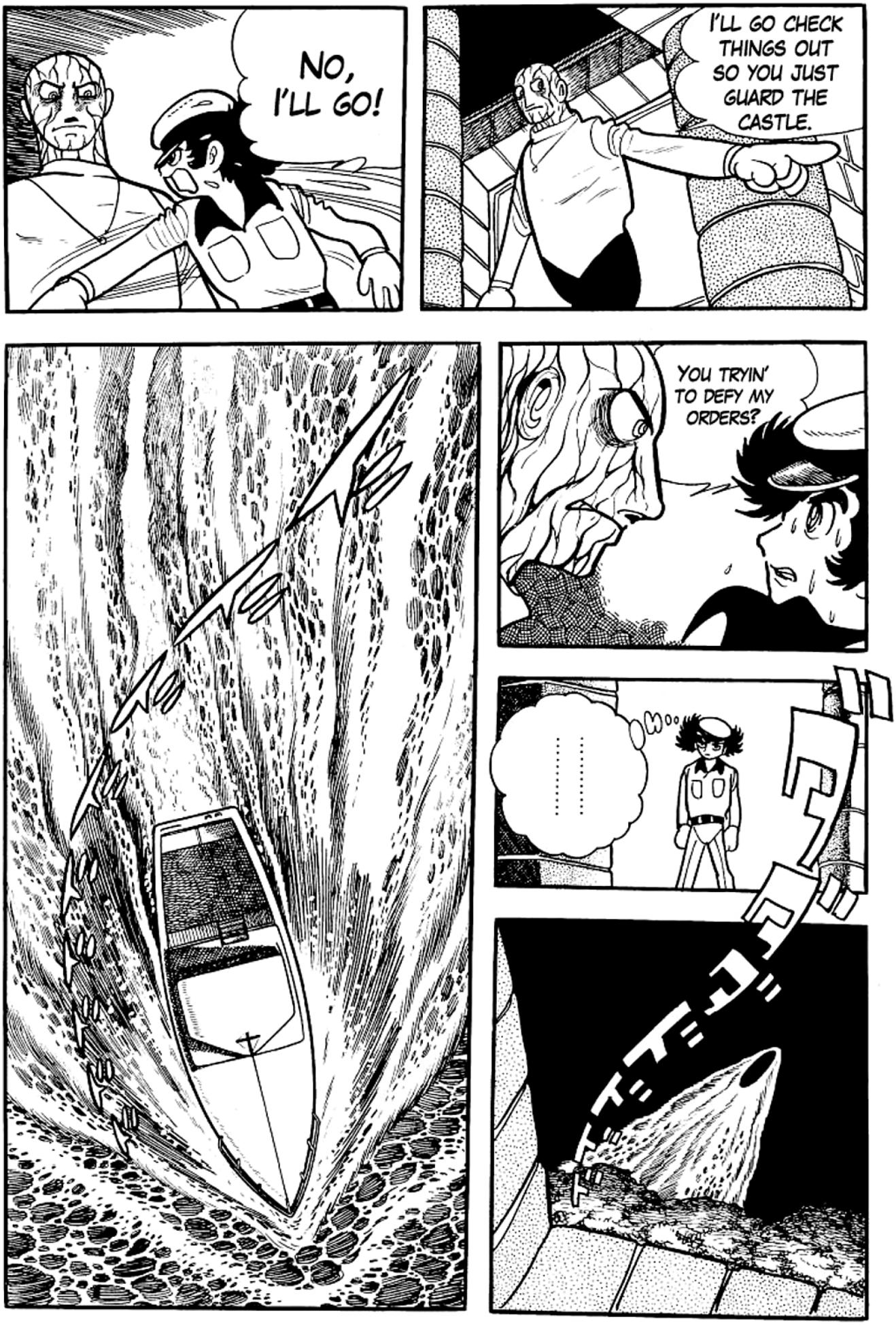

FOR ALL WE KNOW, AMI MIGHTA BEEN CAUGHT AND THEY'RE USING HER TO LURE THE REST OF US.

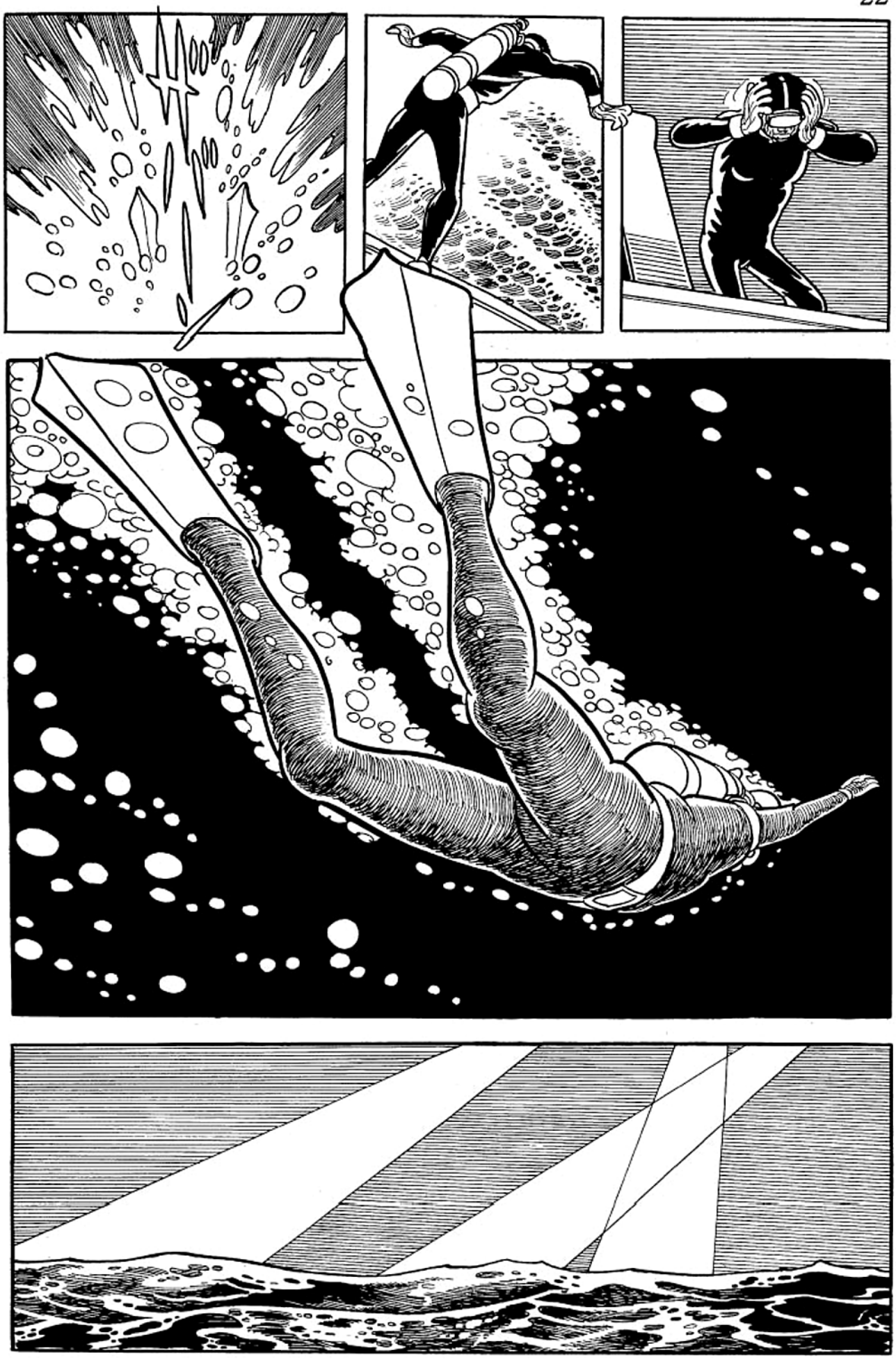
YOU REALLY THINK THAT'LL WORK ON ROCK'S WATCHFUL EYES?

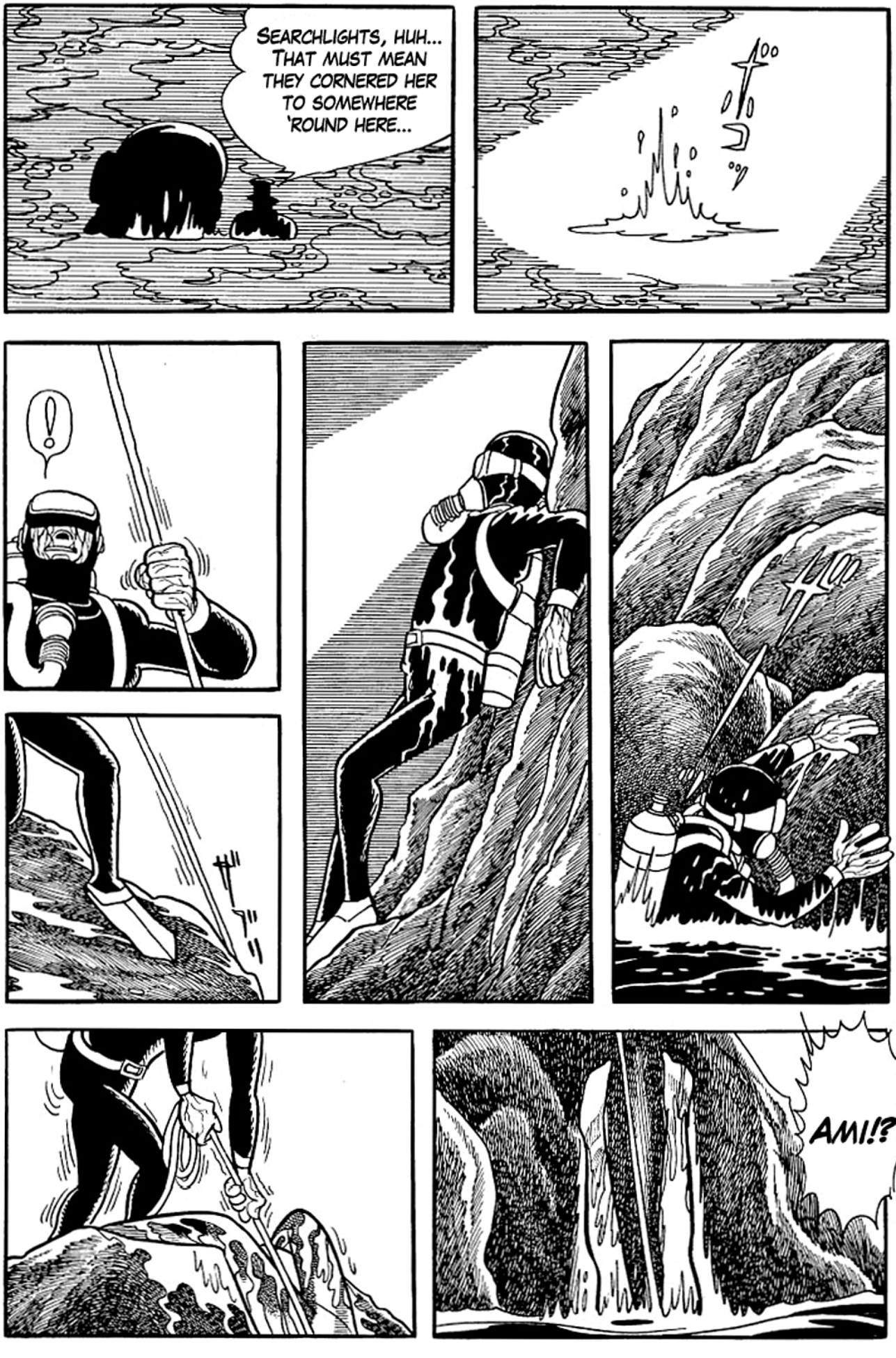
FINE, I'LL DISGUISE MYSELF THEN.


YES, IT'S A TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCE FOR HER, BUT IT MIGHT ALSO PROVE TO BE A VALUABLE EXPERIENCE!


NO... IT CAN'T BE!

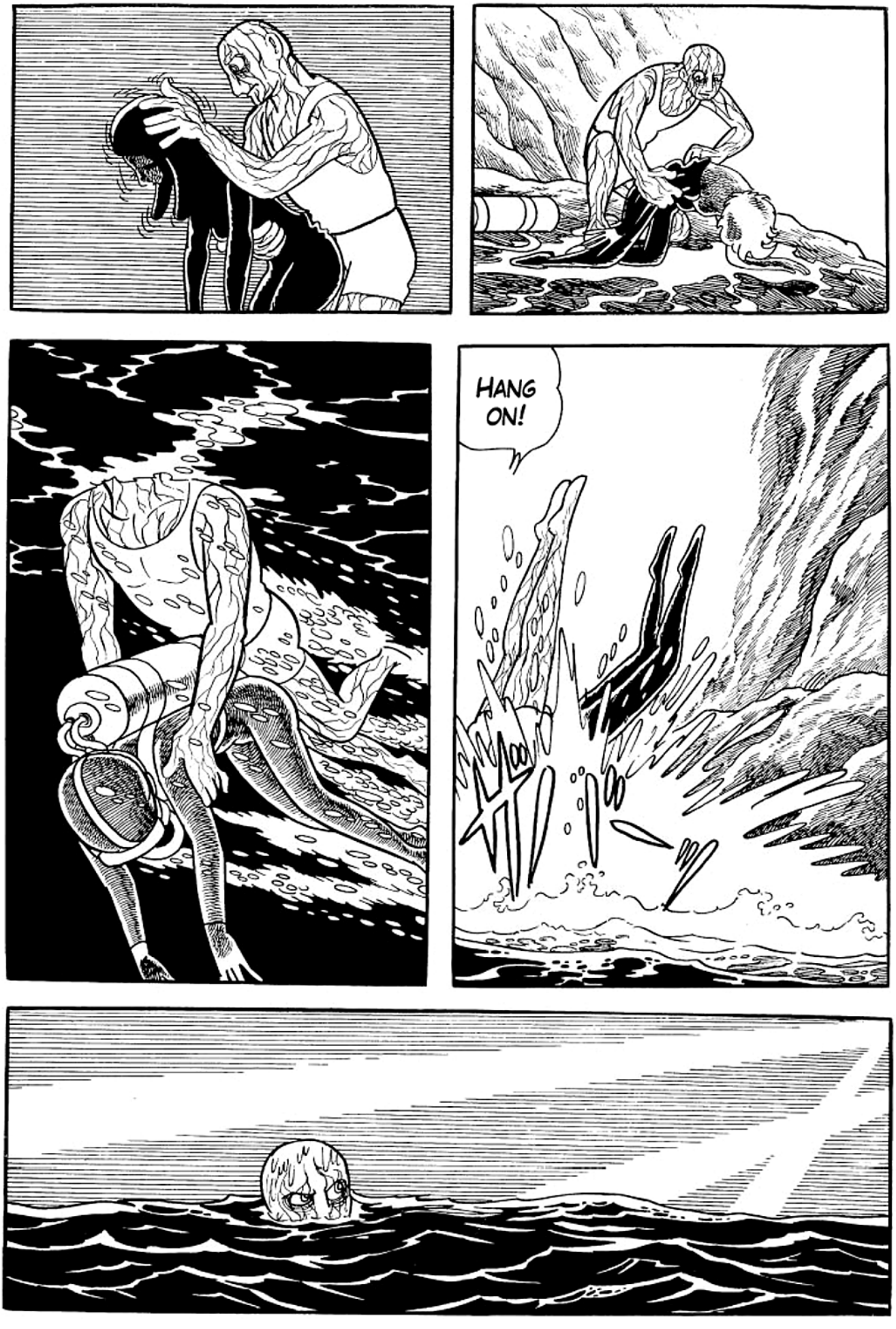

NO, I'LL GO!
I'LL GO CHECK THINGS OUT SO YOU JUST GUARD THE CASTLE.
YOU TRYIN' TO DEFY MY ORDERS?
.....
EEEE

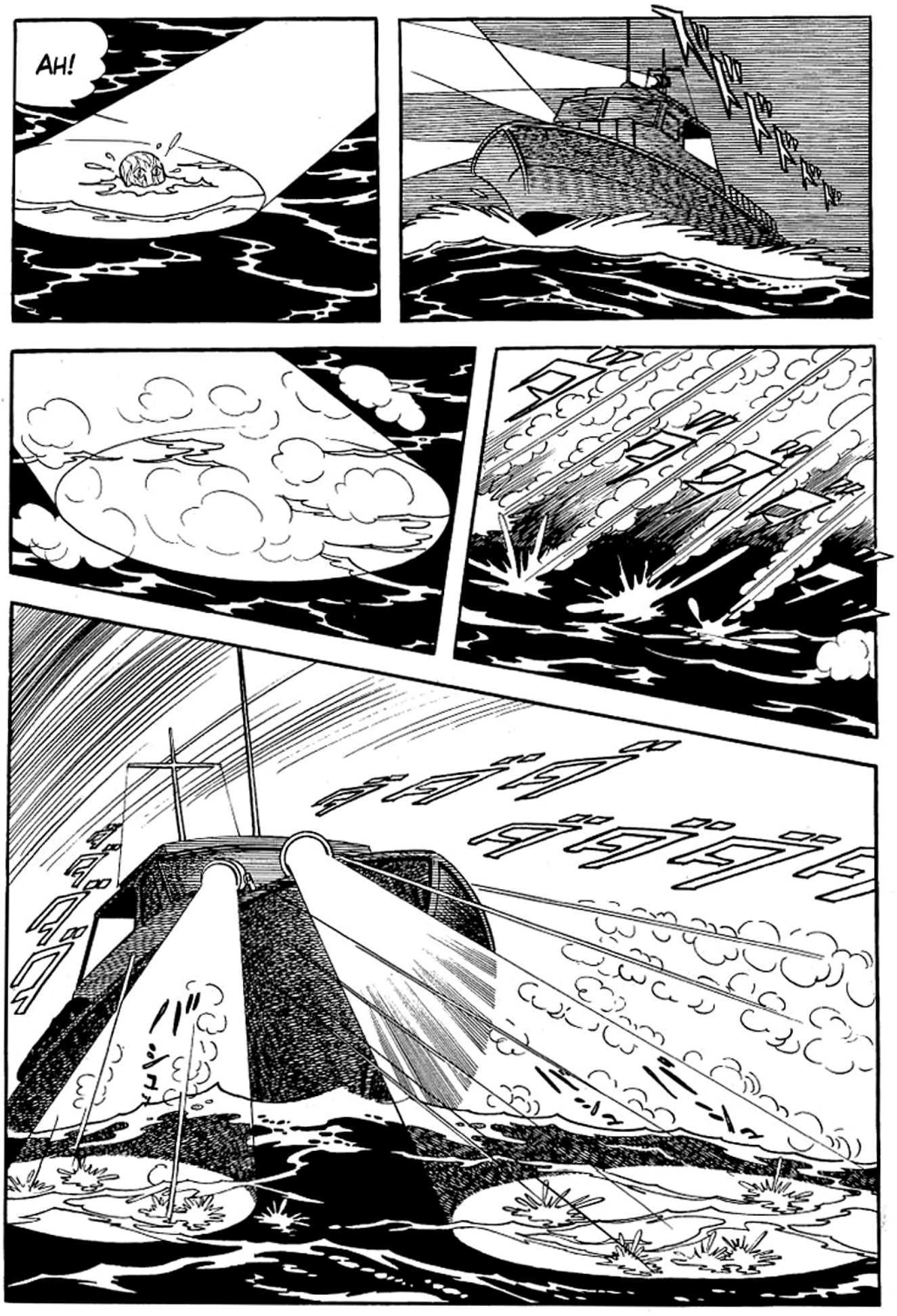


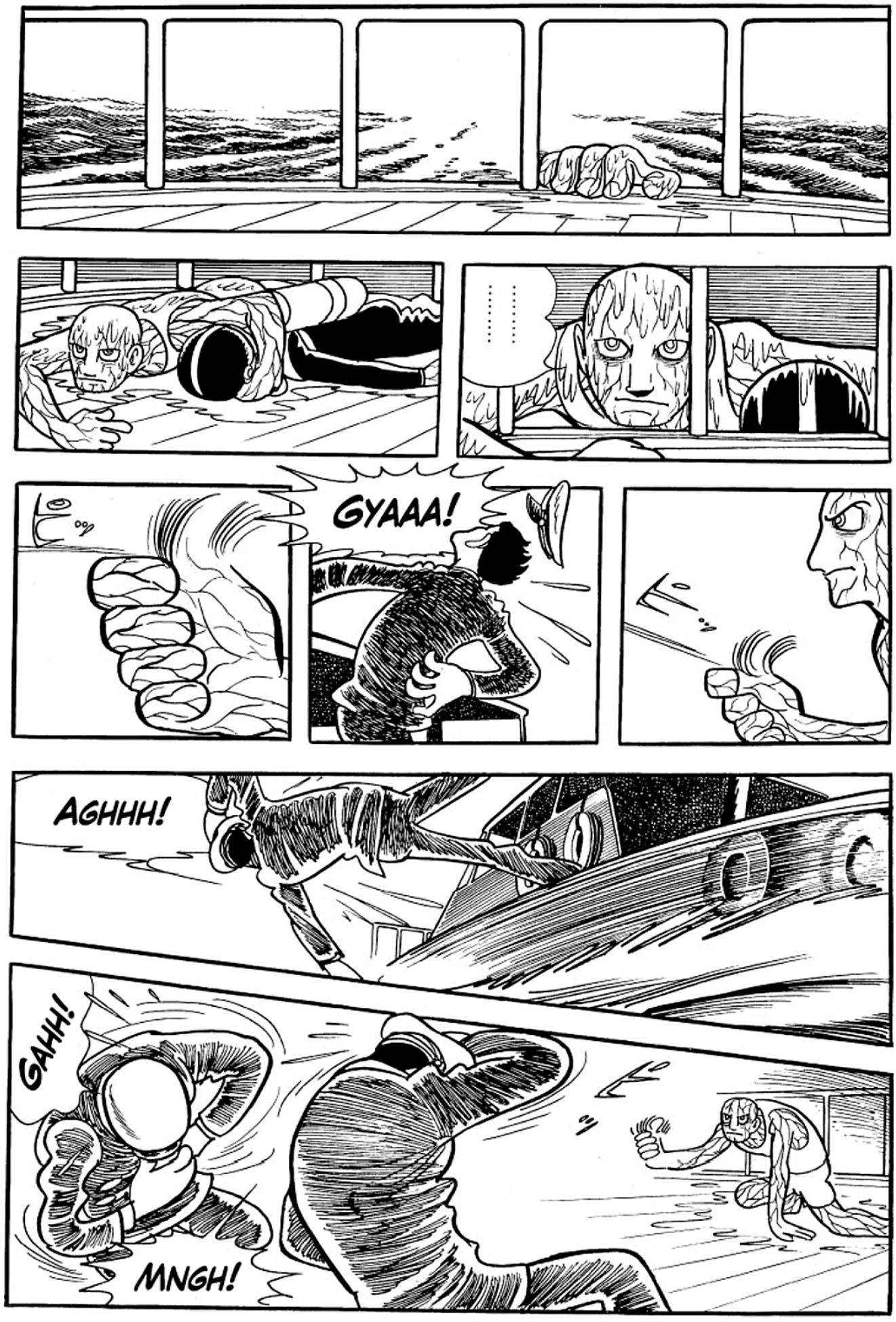

SEARCHLIGHTS, HUH... THAT MUST MEAN THEY CORNERED HER TO SOMEWHERE 'ROUND HERE...
!
AMI!?

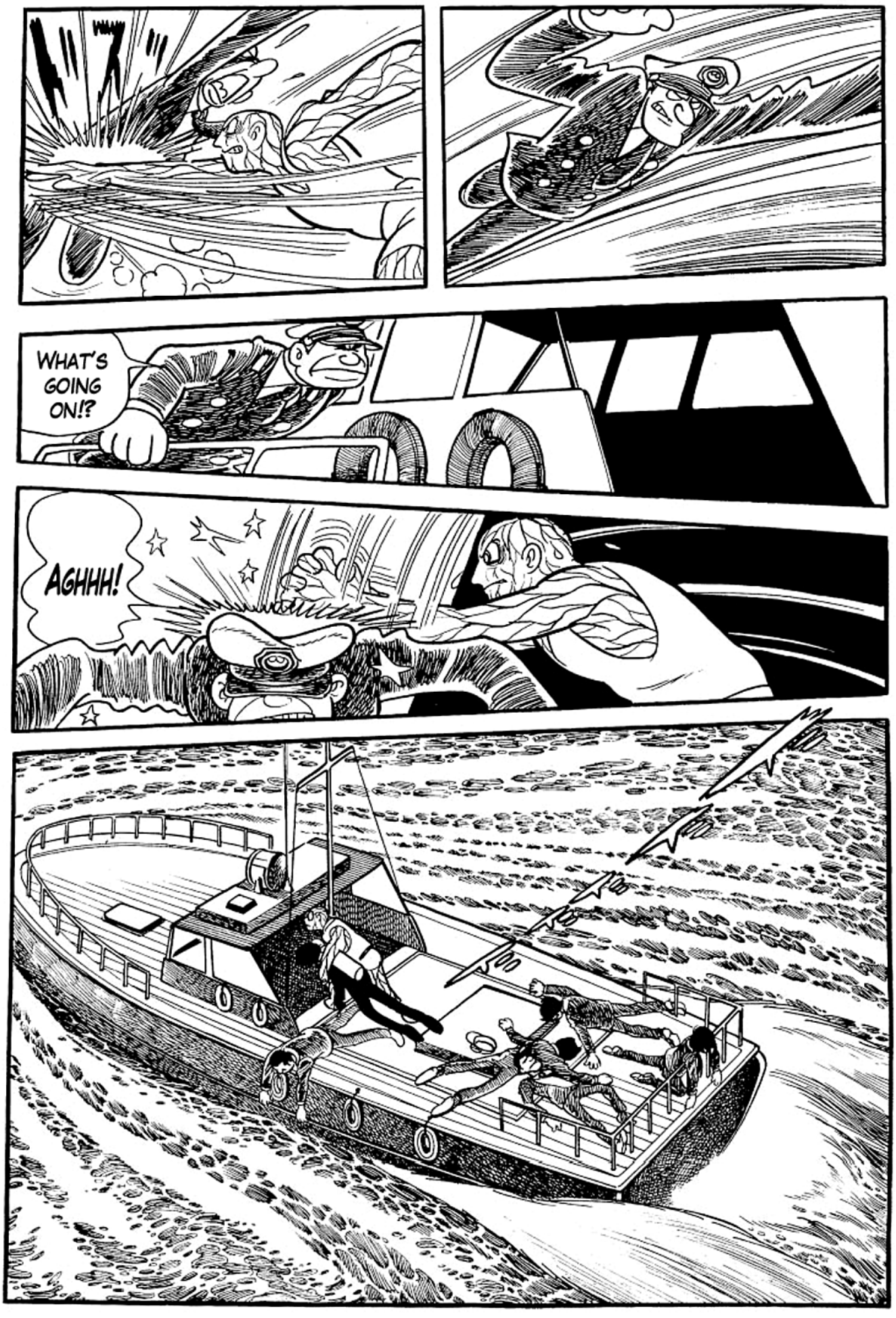
AMI, HANG IN THERE!

WHAT'VE THEY DONE TO YOU...
TOXIC LAQUER ALL OVER HER BODY! SHE GON' DIE IF THIS PAINT DON'T GET OFFA HER SOON!
THIS IS...
GOTTA TAKE HER BACK TO THE CASTLE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...


HANG ON!

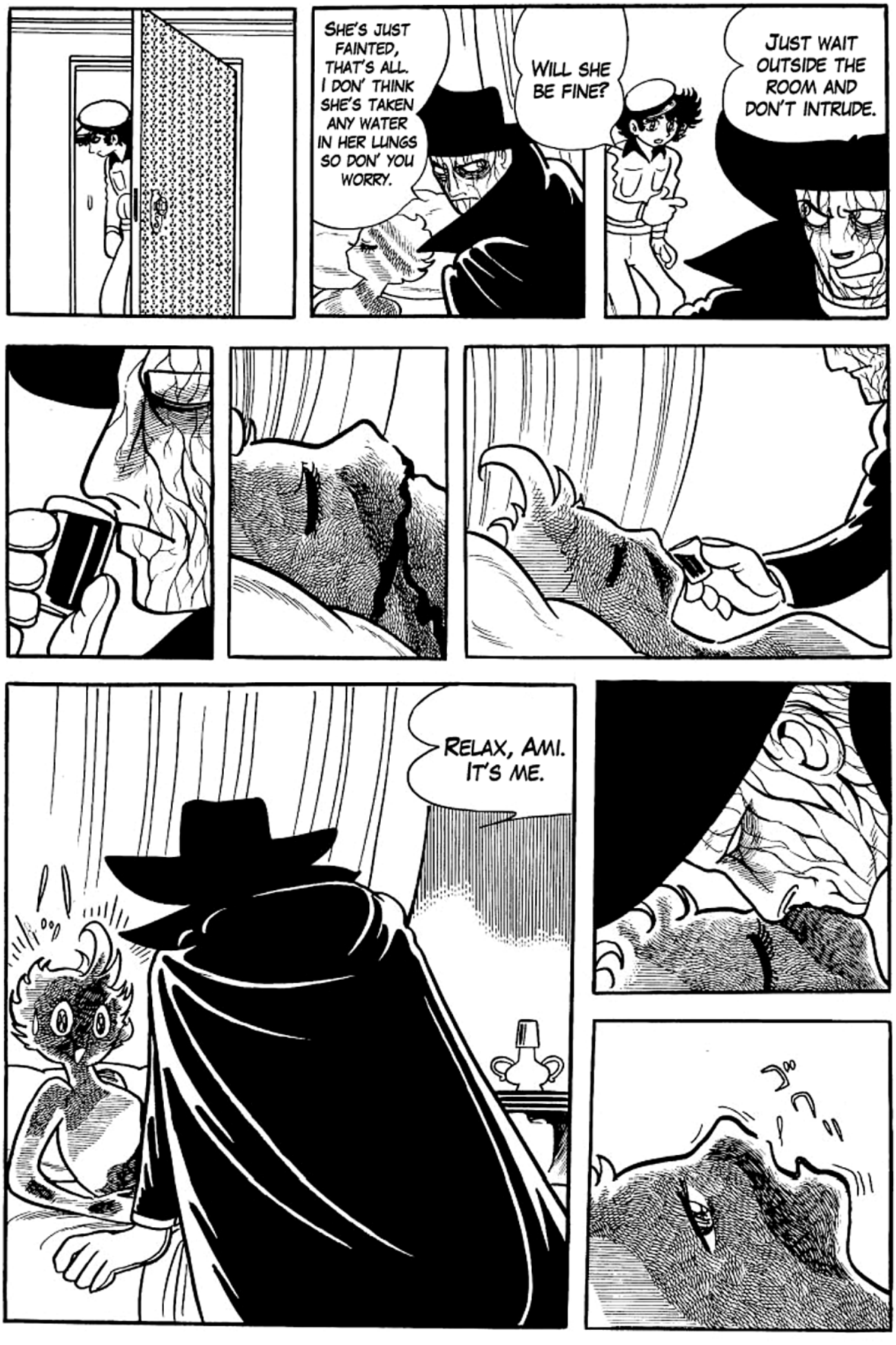

AH!


.....
GYAAA!
AGHHH!
GAHH!
MNGH!

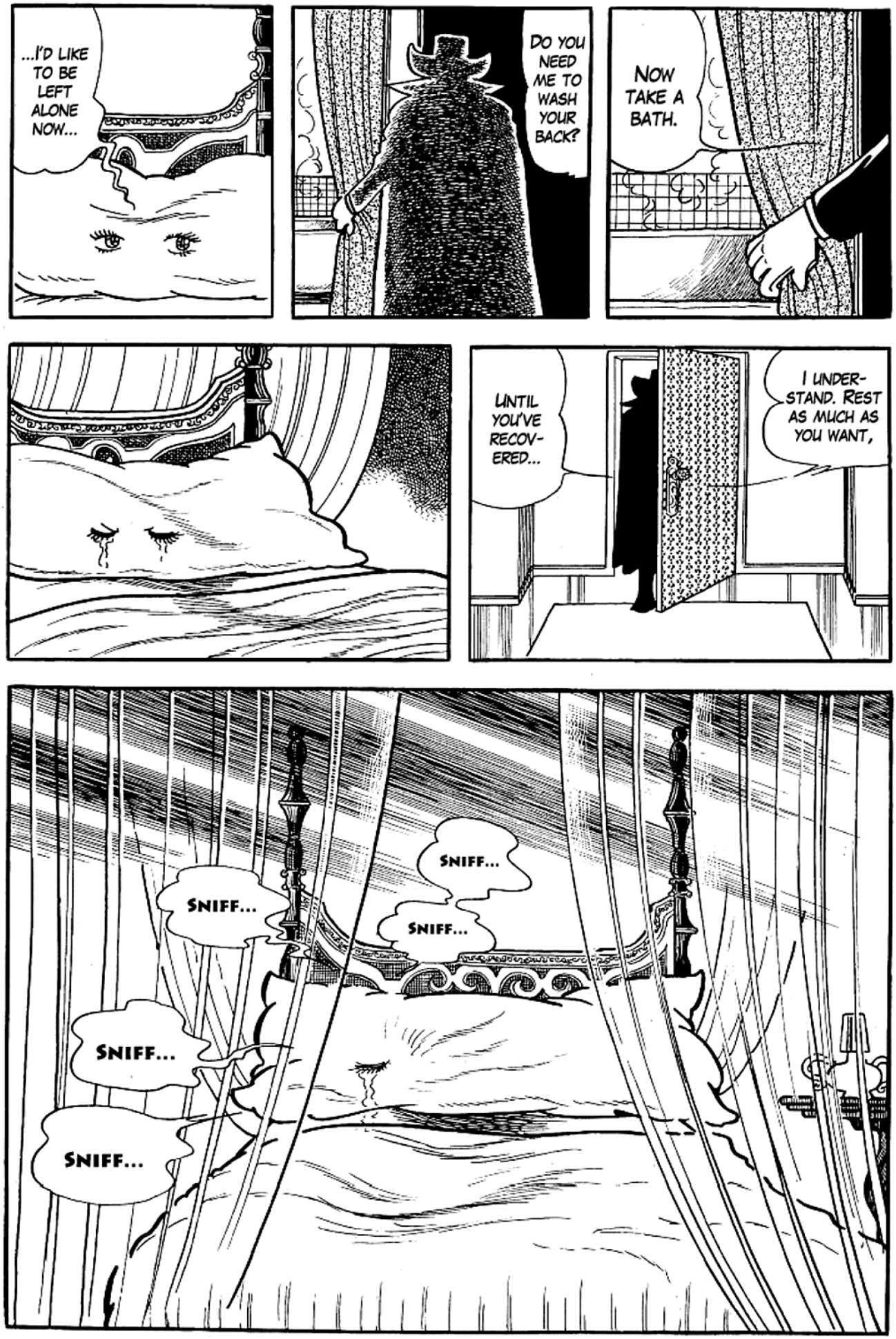

WHAT'S GOING ON!?
AGHHH!

THANKS FOR THE BOAT RIDE, GENTS. IMA TAKE MY OWN BOAT FROM HERE.

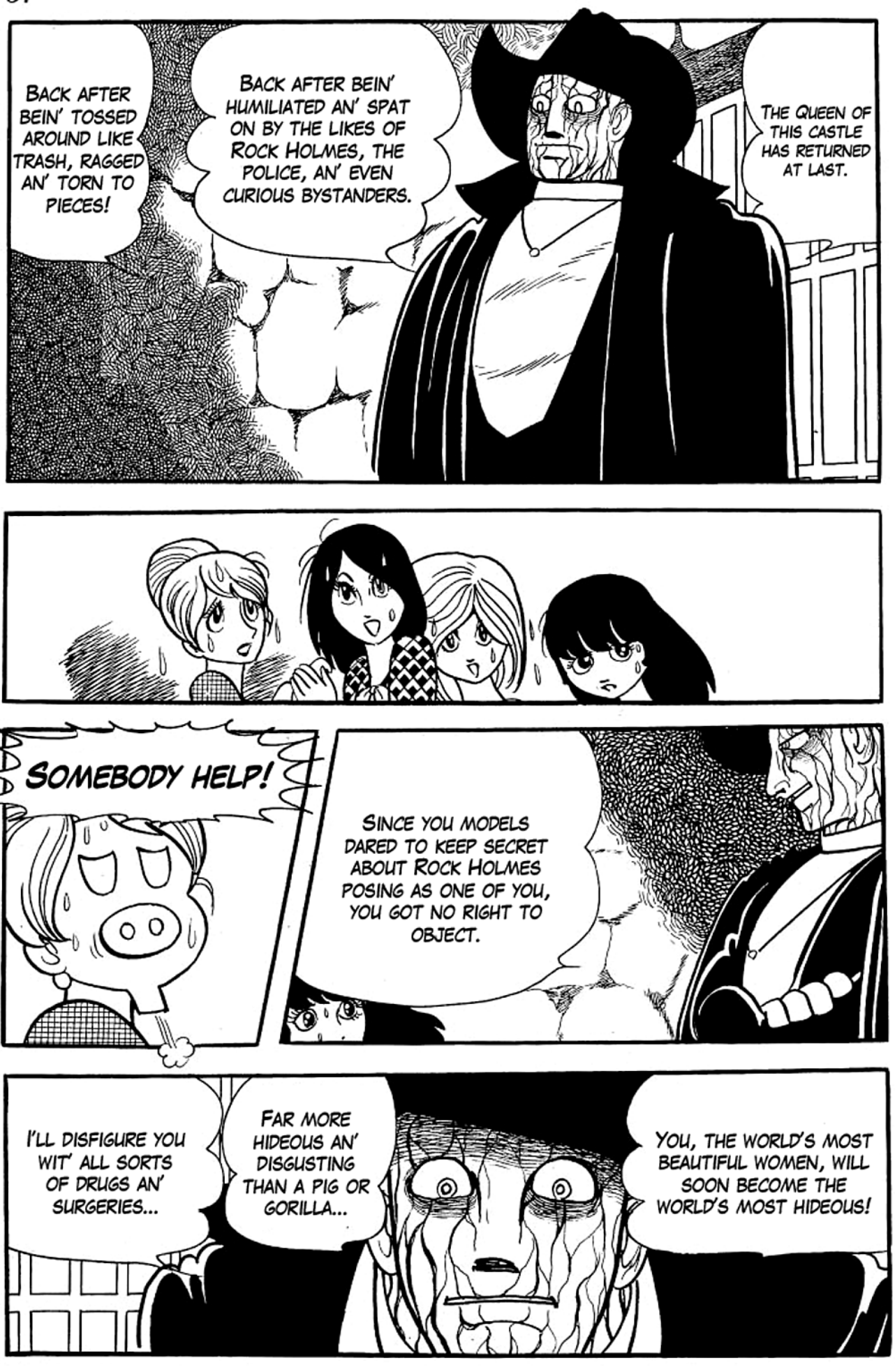
PREPARE A HOT TUB AN' GET SOME PAINT THINNER. ALSO SOME PILLS AND BRANDY!
OH GOSH, THIS IS HORRIBLE...
GUYS! ALABASTER'S BACK!
NO, LEAVE THE ROOM. I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
IS THIS PAINT?
I'LL WIPE HER OFF!

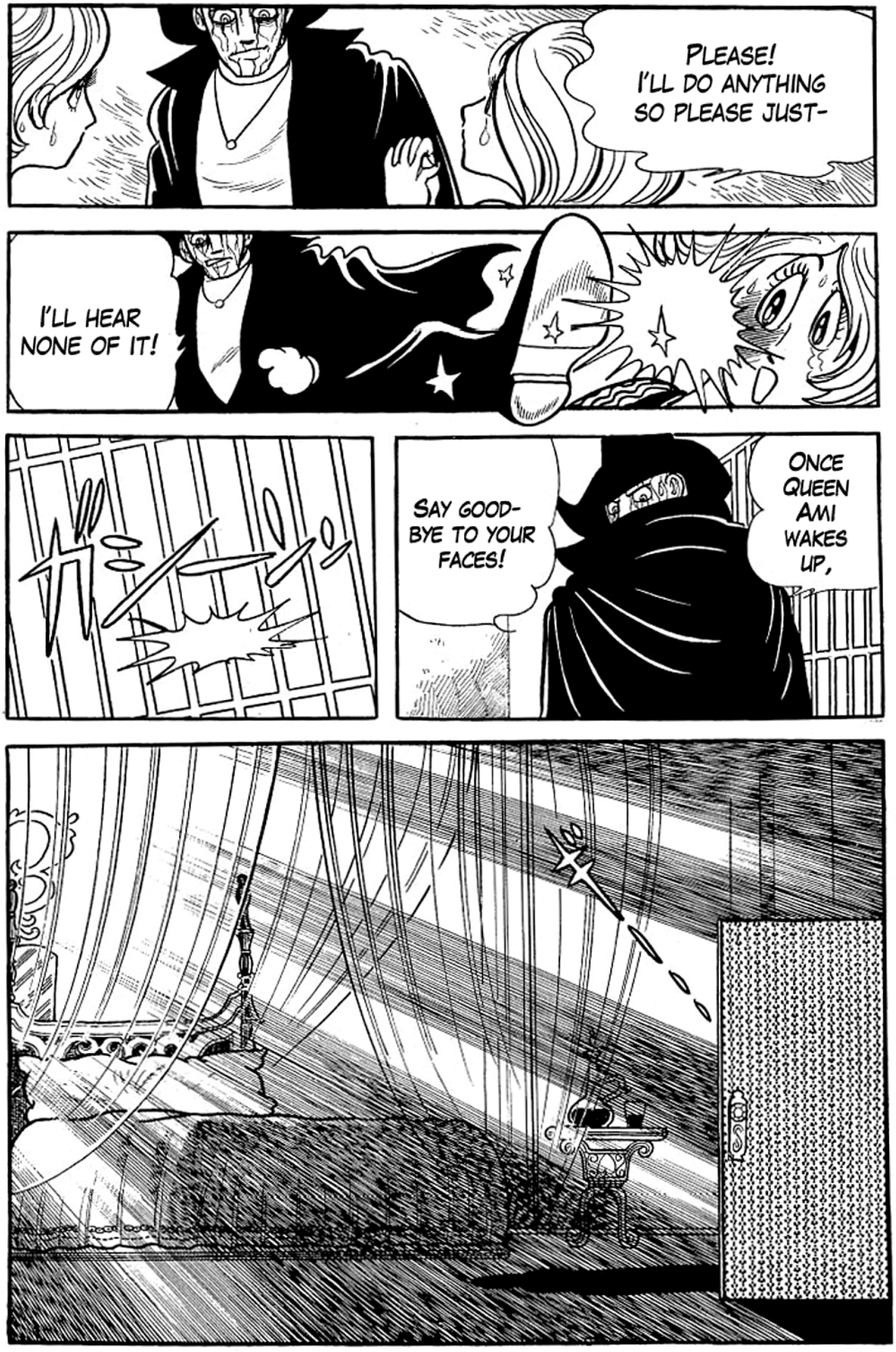

SHE'S JUST FAINTED, THAT'S ALL. I DON' THINK SHE'S TAKEN ANY WATER IN HER LUNGS SO DON' YOU WORRY.
WILL SHE BE FINE?
JUST WAIT OUTSIDE THE ROOM AND DON'T INTRUDE.
RELAX, AMI. IT'S ME.

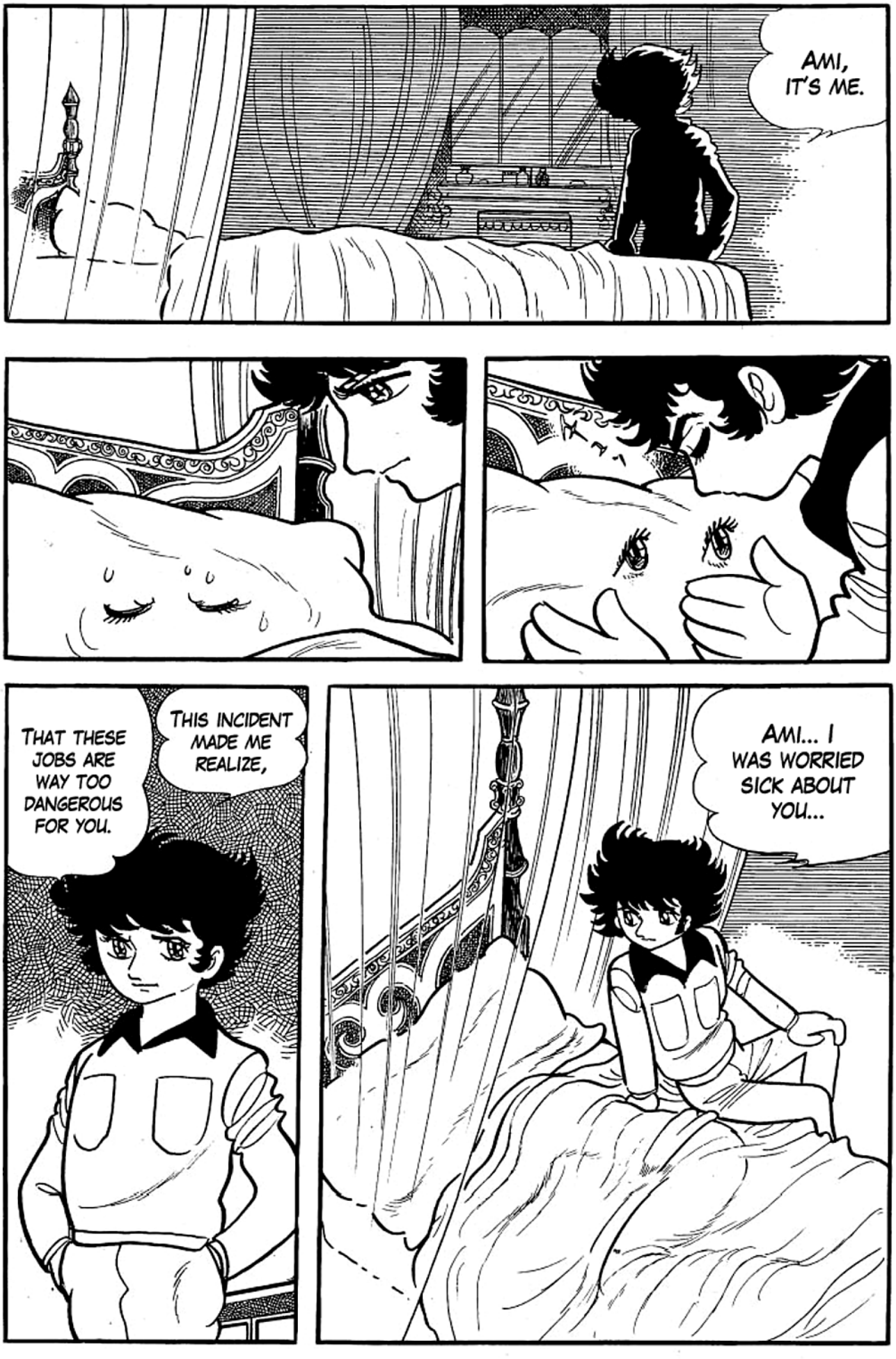
DON' BE SHY. I'M YOUR GUARDIAN, AFTER ALL...
.....
I'M RUBBIN' THE PAINT OFF RIGHT NOW.
.....
WAS IT ROCK?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY DID THIS TO YOU...
LOATHE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN!
IT'S FINE TO HATE, AMI.
THE MORE YOU HATE, THE BETTER IT'LL FEEL WHEN WE TAKE REVENGE ON THIS TWISTED WORLD!
YOU HATE HIM DON'T YOU? HE PLAYED WITH YOUR BODY, DIDN' HE? DON' THAT MAKE YOU JUST DESPISE THIS CRUEL WORLD?

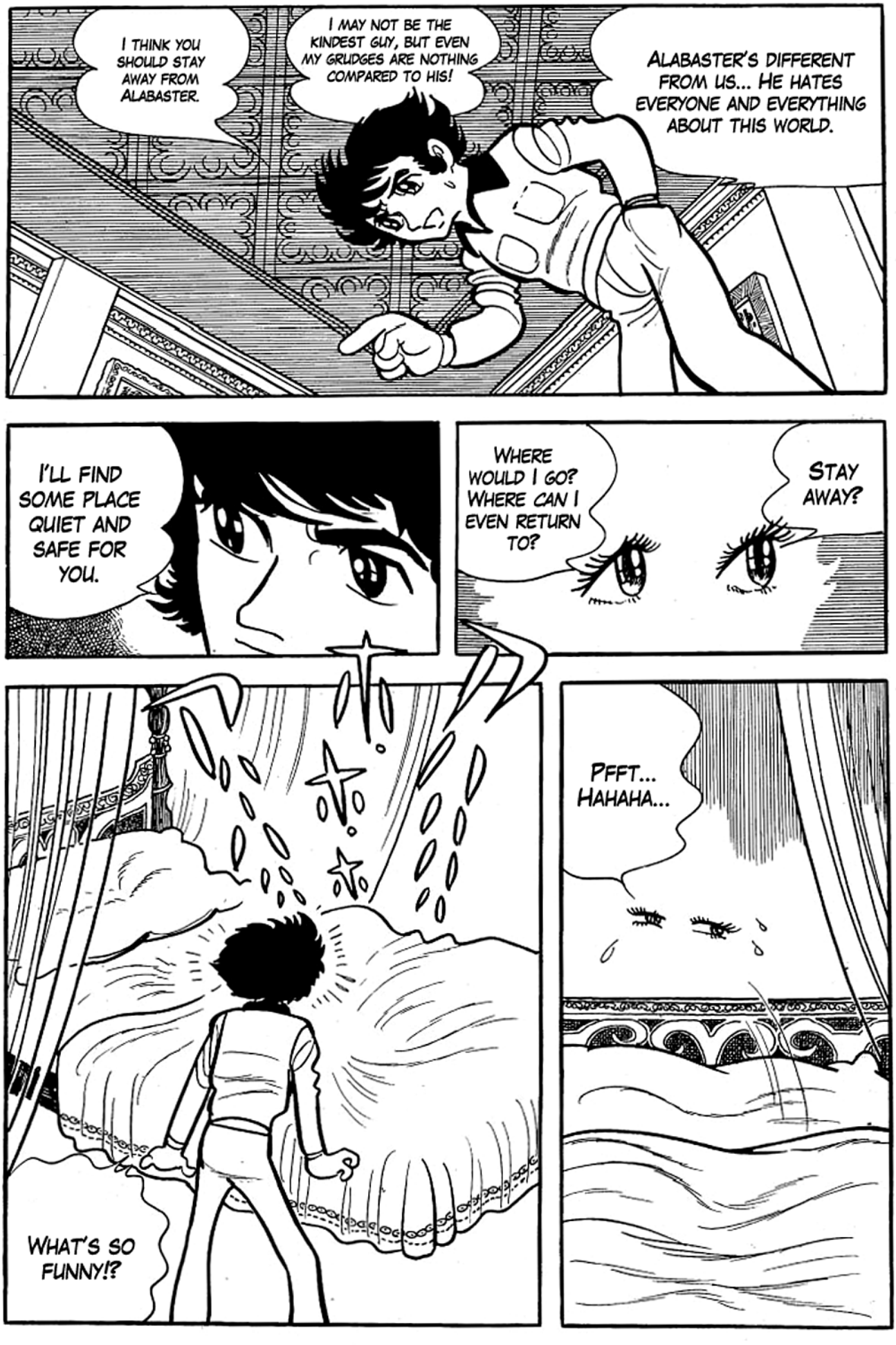

...I'D LIKE TO BE LEFT ALONE NOW...
DO YOU NEED ME TO WASH YOUR BACK?
NOW TAKE A BATH.
I UNDERSTAND. REST AS MUCH AS YOU WANT,
UNTIL YOU'VE RECOVERED...
SNIFF...
SNIFF...
SNIFF...
SNIFF...
SNIFF...

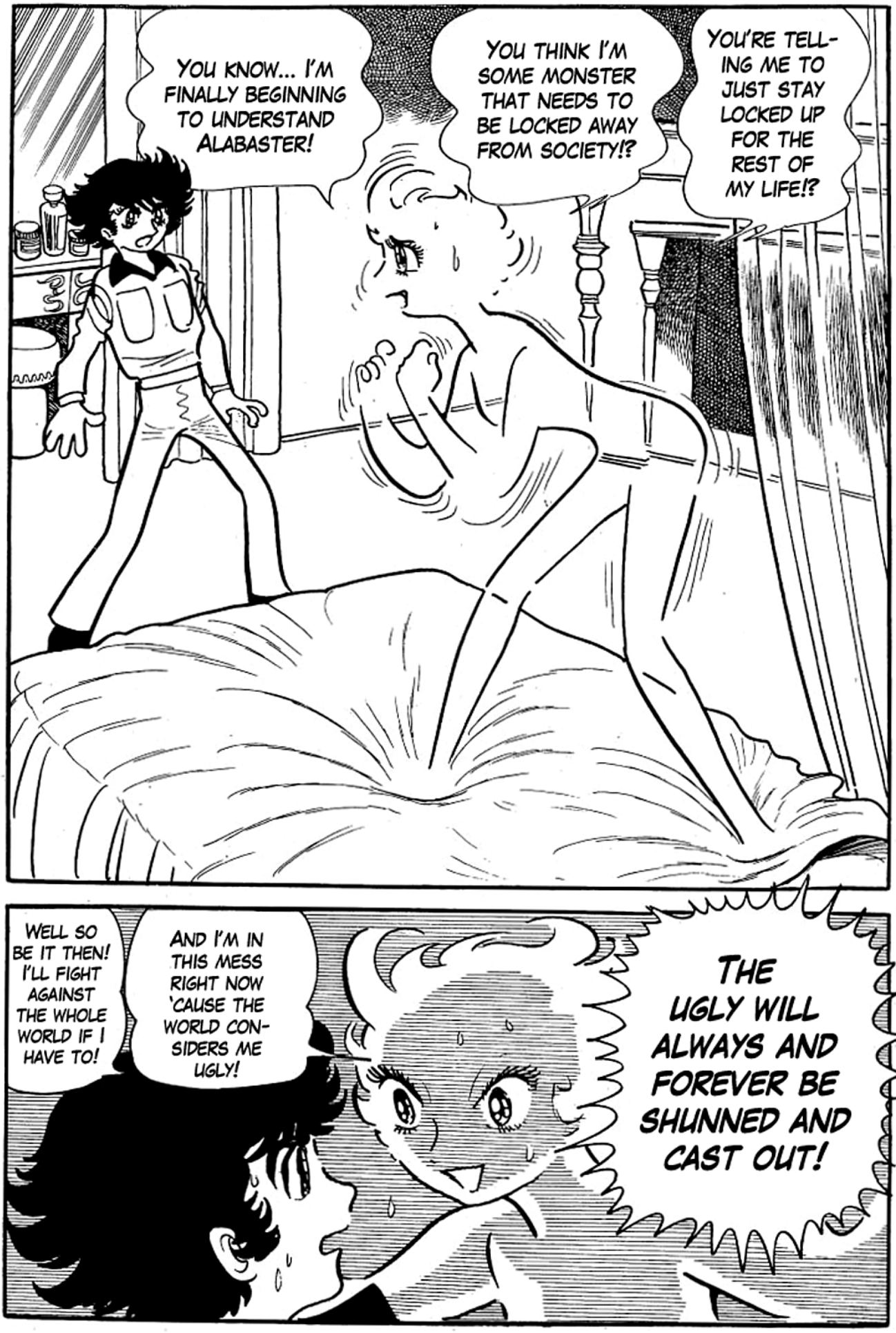
Chapter 7
Brother and Sister


BACK AFTER BEIN' TOSSED AROUND LIKE TRASH, RAGGED AN' TORN TO PIECES!
BACK AFTER BEIN' HUMILIATED AN' SPAT ON BY THE LIKES OF ROCK HOLMES, THE POLICE, AN' EVEN CURIOUS BYSTANDERS.
THE QUEEN OF THIS CASTLE HAS RETURNED AT LAST.
SOMEBODY HELP!
SINCE YOU MODELS DARED TO KEEP SECRET ABOUT ROCK HOLMES POSING AS ONE OF YOU, YOU GOT NO RIGHT TO OBJECT.
I'LL DISFIGURE YOU WIT' ALL SORTS OF DRUGS AN' SURGERIES...
FAR MORE HIDEOUS AN' DISGUSTING THAN A PIG OR GORILLA...
YOU, THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, WILL SOON BECOME THE WORLD'S MOST HIDEOUS!

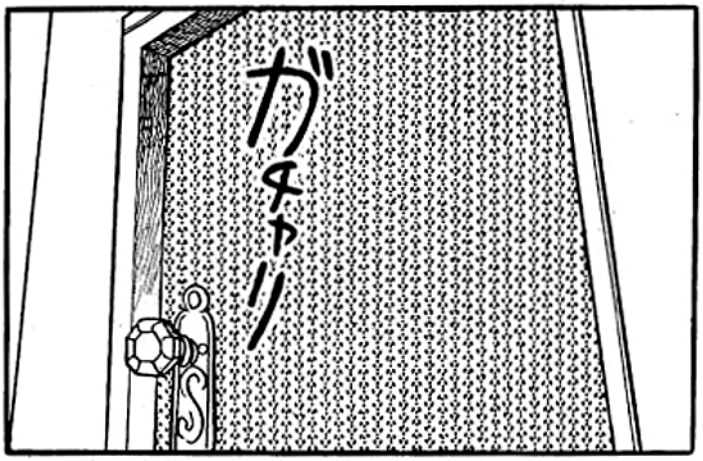

PLEASE! I'LL DO ANYTHING SO PLEASE JUST-
I'LL HEAR NONE OF IT!
ONCE QUEEN AMI WAKES UP,
SAY GOOD-BYE TO YOUR FACES!


AMI, IT'S ME.
AMI... I WAS WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU...
THIS INCIDENT MADE ME REALIZE,
THAT THESE JOBS ARE WAY TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU.


I THINK YOU SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM ALABASTER.
I MAY NOT BE THE KINDEST GUY, BUT EVEN MY GRUDGES ARE NOTHING COMPARED TO HIS!
ALABASTER'S DIFFERENT FROM US... HE HATES EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS WORLD.
I'LL FIND SOME PLACE QUIET AND SAFE FOR YOU.
WHERE WOULD I GO? WHERE CAN I EVEN RETURN TO?
STAY AWAY?
WHAT'S SO FUNNY!?
PFFT... HAHAHA...


YOU KNOW... I'M FINALLY BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND ALABASTER!
YOU THINK I'M SOME MONSTER THAT NEEDS TO BE LOCKED AWAY FROM SOCIETY!?
YOU'RE TELLING ME TO JUST STAY LOCKED UP FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!?
WELL SO BE IT THEN! I'LL FIGHT AGAINST THE WHOLE WORLD IF I HAVE TO!
AND I'M IN THIS MESS RIGHT NOW 'CAUSE THE WORLD CONSIDERS ME UGLY!
THE UGLY WILL ALWAYS AND FOREVER BE SHUNNED AND CAST OUT!

IT'S ONLY WARPED SOCIETIES WE SHOULD BE FIGHTING HERE!
AMI... I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL BUT YOU HAVE TO CALM DOWN!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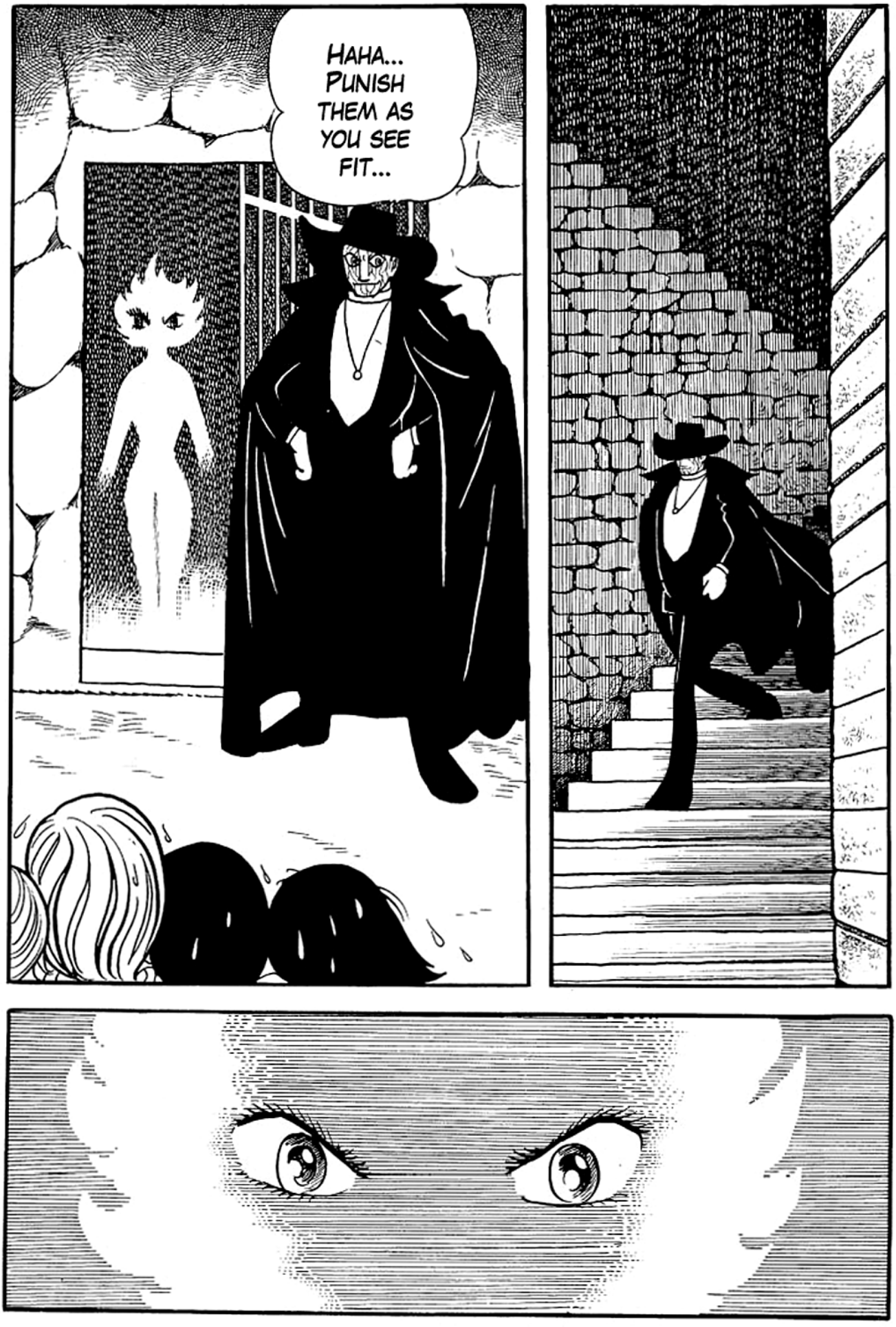
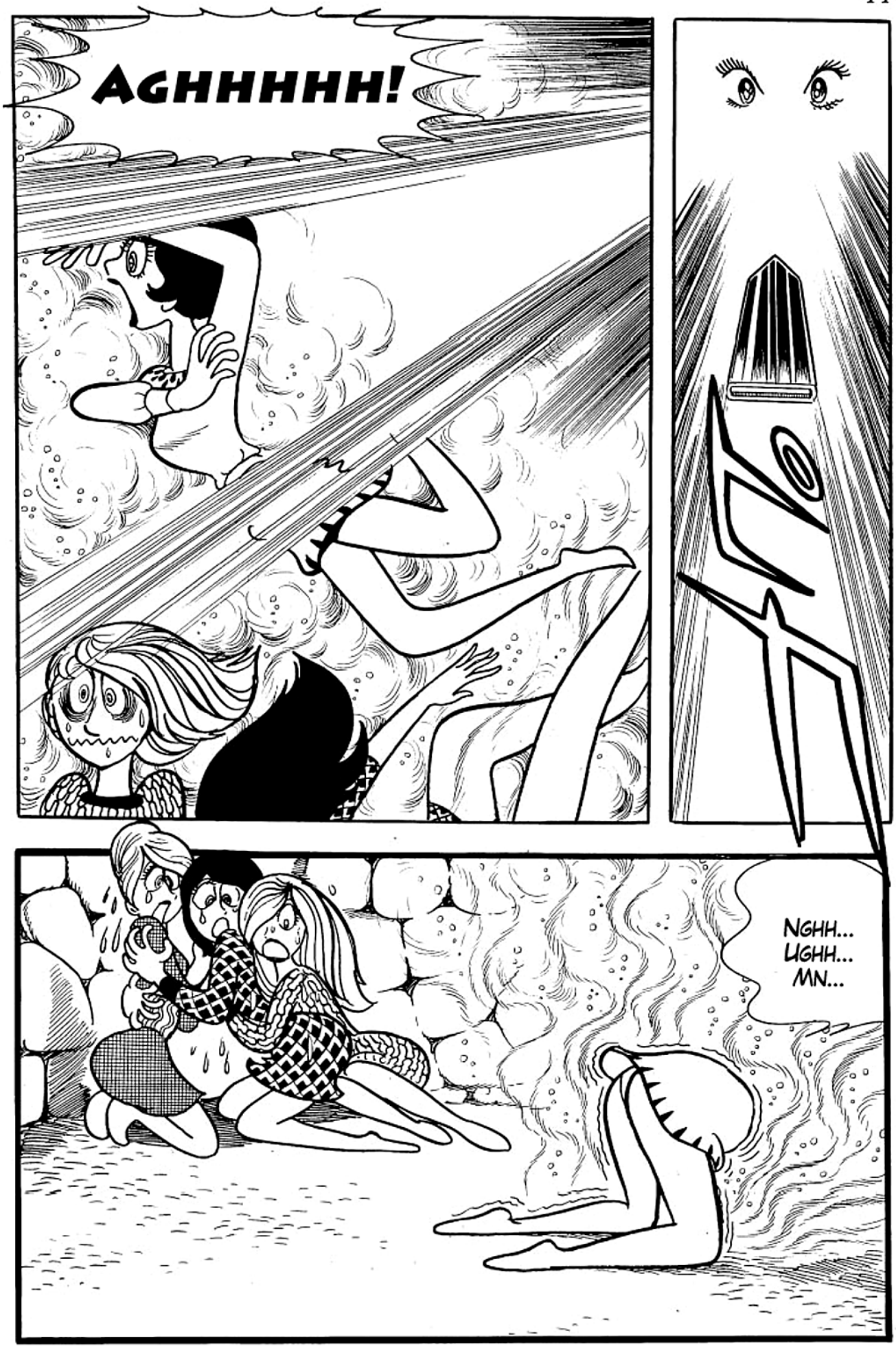
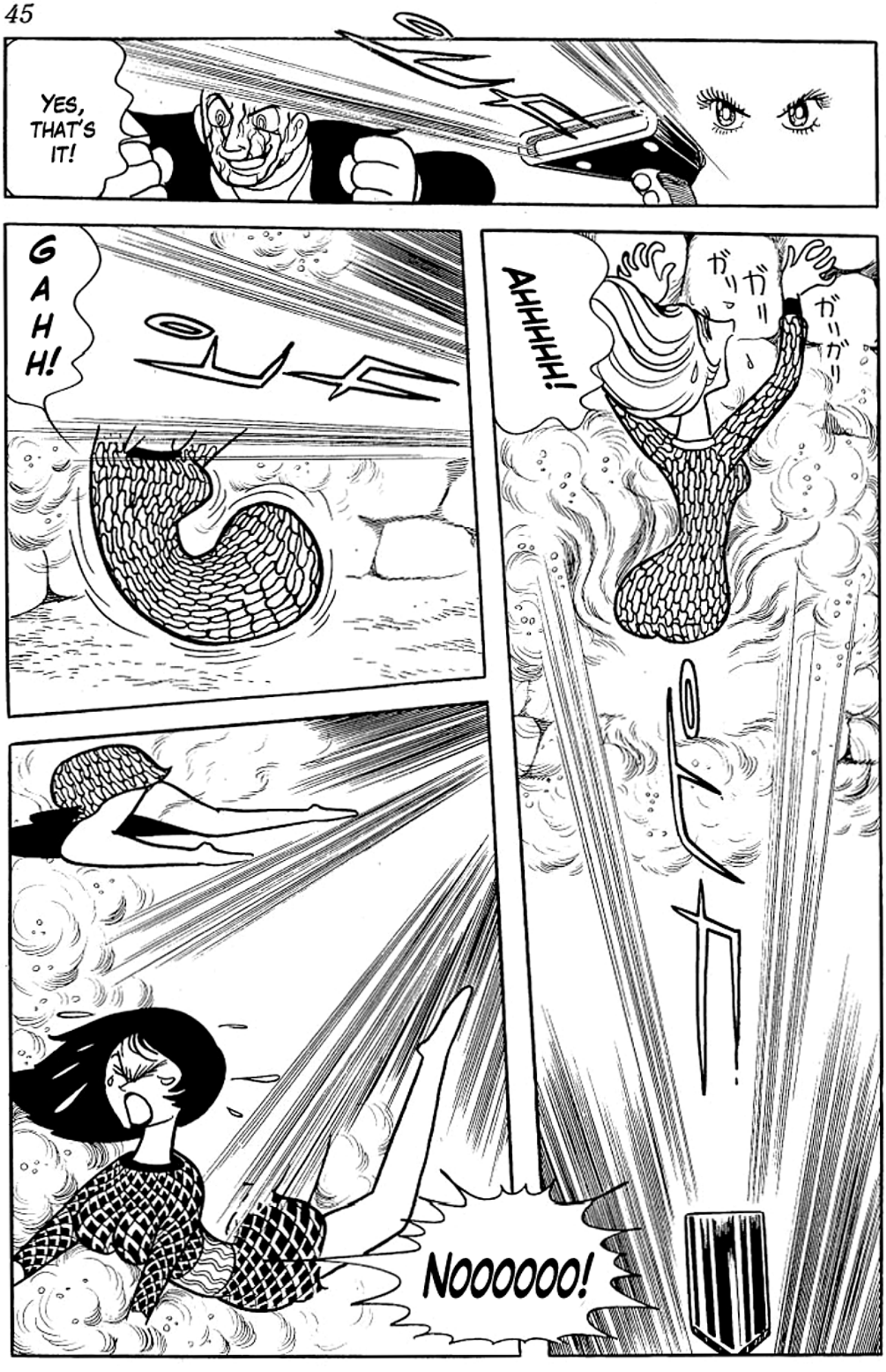
THEN COME THIS WAY. THE MODELS ARE WAITING BELOW.
AWAKE AT LAST?

NOOO!
AMI, I'M BEGGING YOU. JUST PLEASE LISTEN TO ME JUST THIS ONCE! YOU HAVE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE!
I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE ON THE SO-CALLED "BEAUTIFUL!"


HAHA... PUNISH THEM AS YOU SEE FIT...


AGHHHHH!
NGHH...
UGHH...
MN...


YES, THAT'S IT!
GAHH!
AHHHH!
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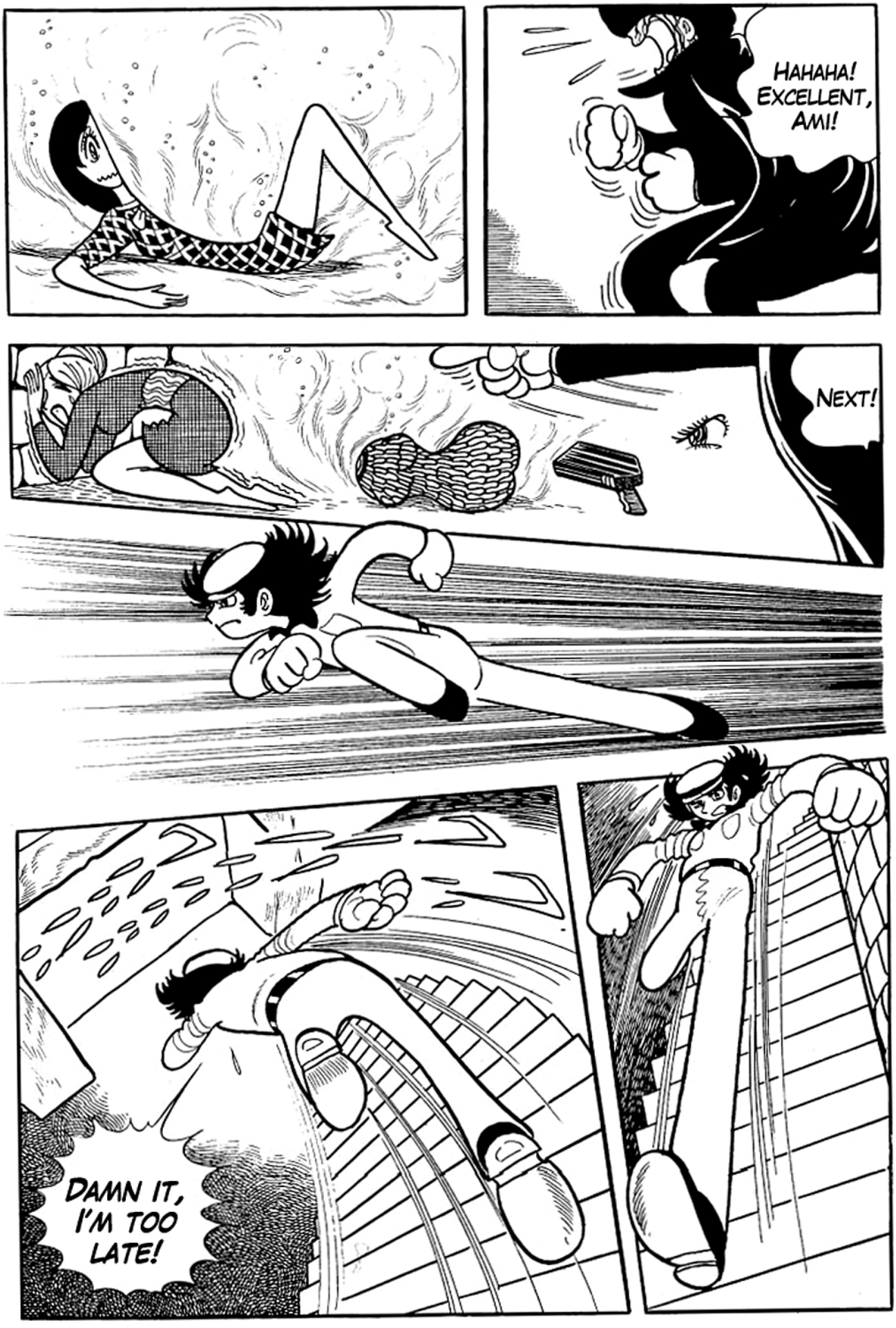
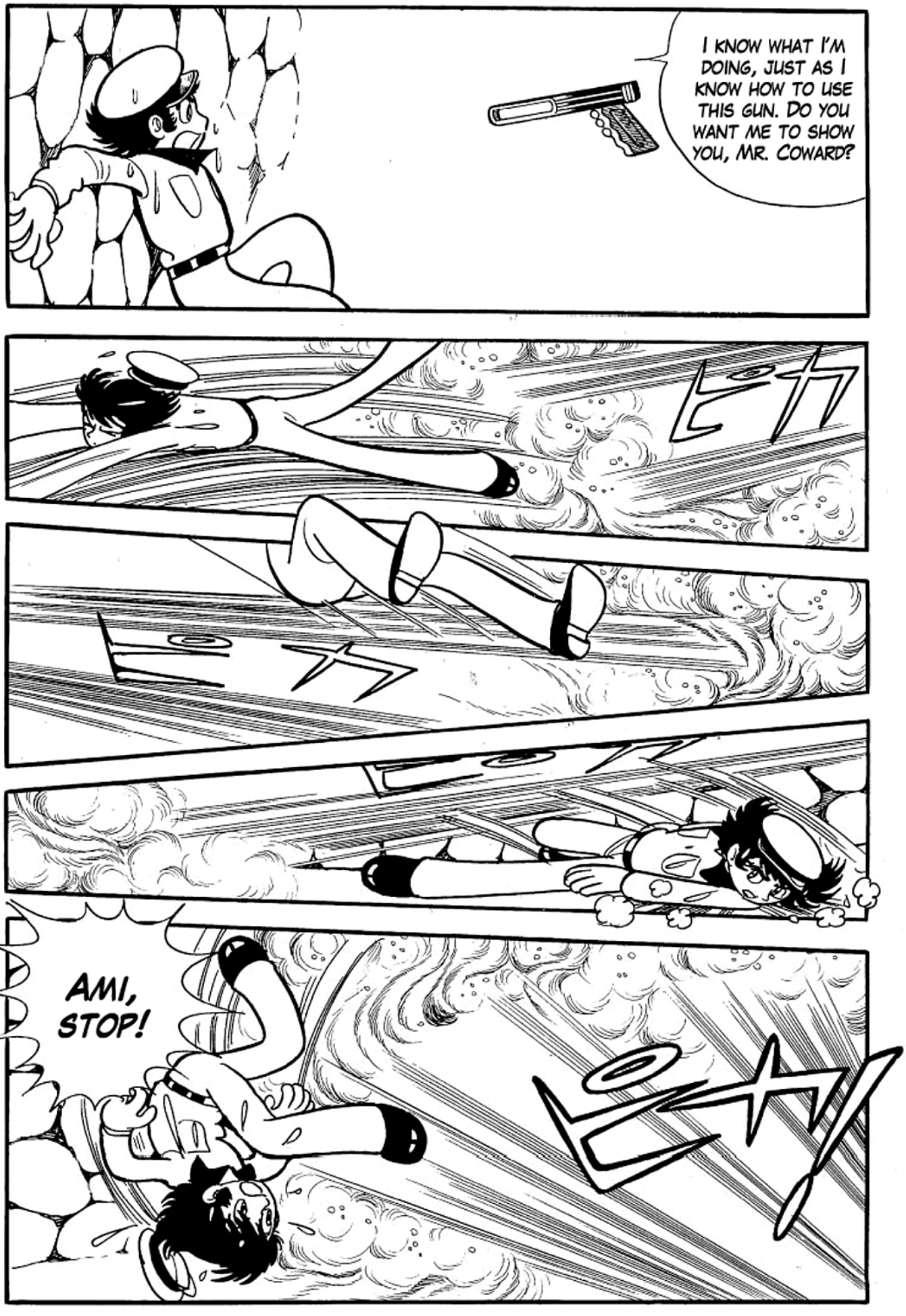
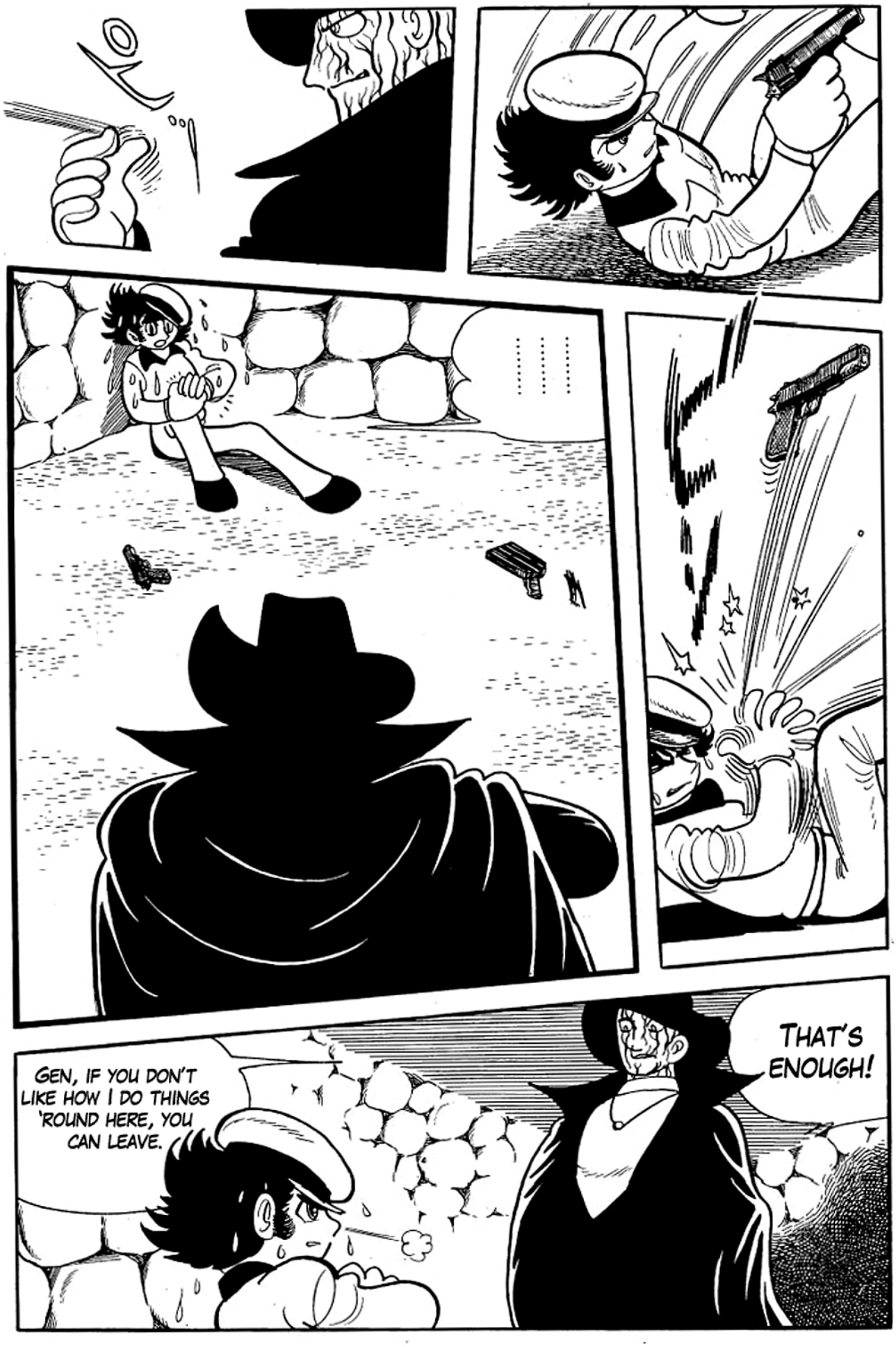
NOOOOOO!

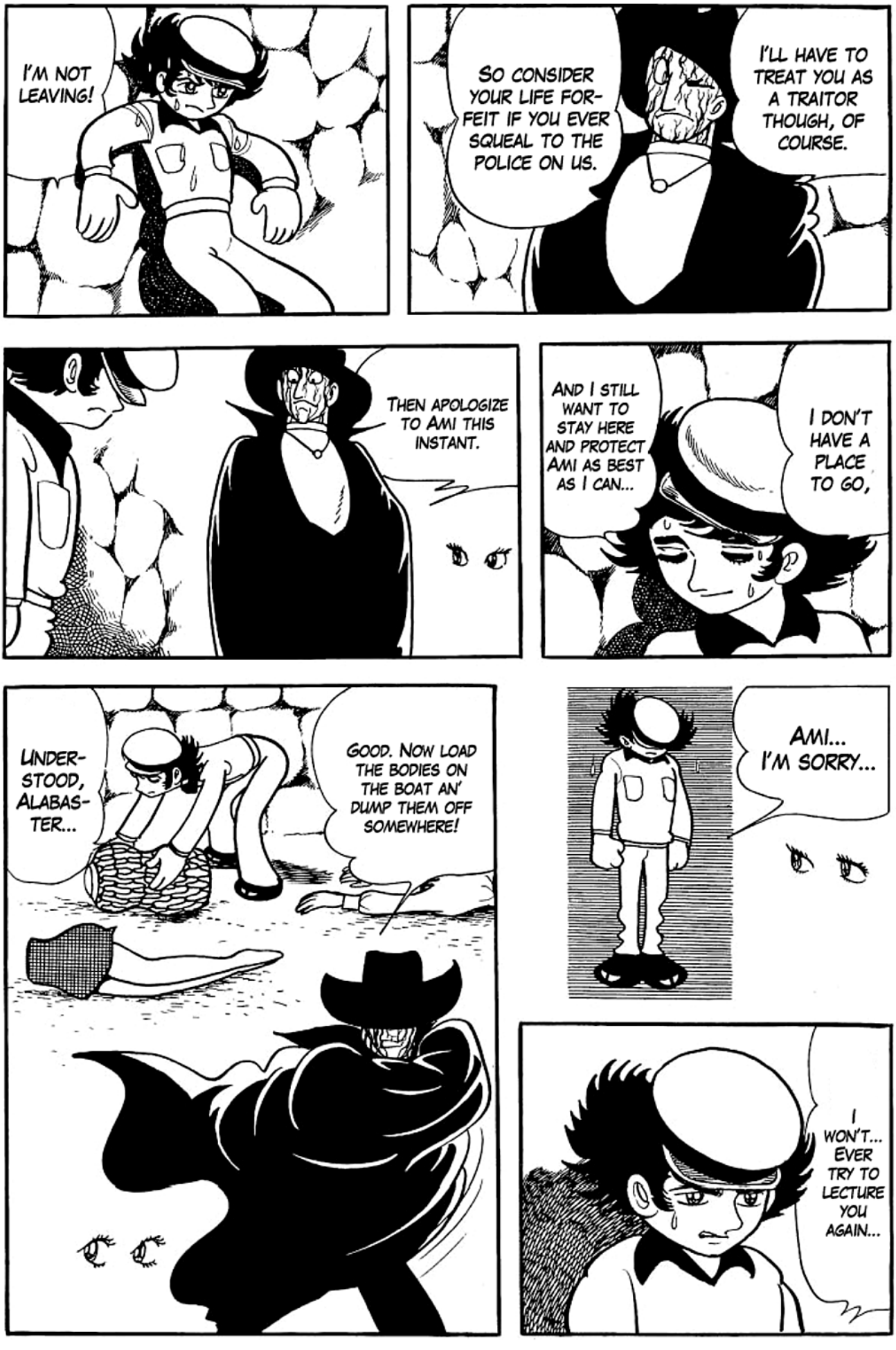

HAHAHA! EXCELLENT, AMI!
NEXT!
DAMN IT, I'M TOO LATE!

AMI, STOP!
DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING FOR DOING ALL THIS!?
YOU'VE... YOU'VE GONE FAR ENOUGH. THESE GIRLS ARE DONE FOR. THAT RAY-GUN HAS IRREVERSIBLY DAMAGED THEIR CELLS AND THEY'LL DIE ANY MOMENT NOW...
THAT'S A COWARD'S WORK.
BUT I'D NEVER HARM INNOCENT CIVILIANS WHO'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM!
AMI, I MIGHT LASH BACK AT THE GREEDY CROOKS WHO PERVERT SOCIETY TO THEIR OWN VIEWS,

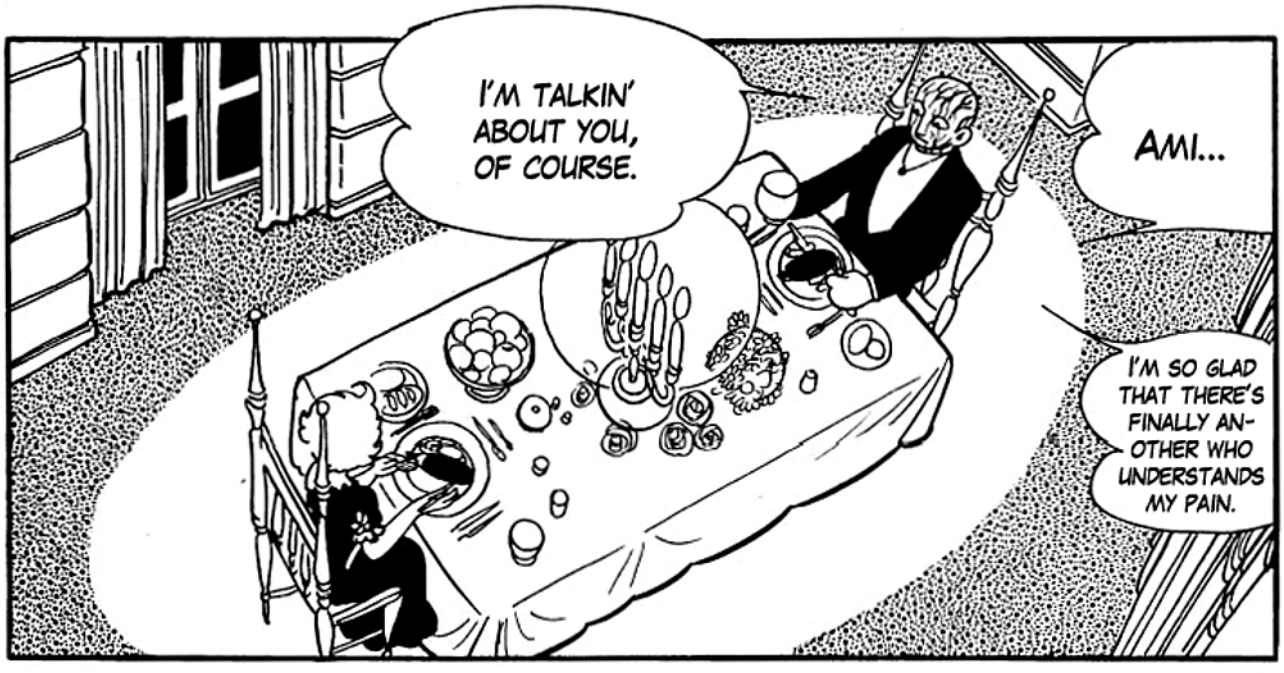
ARE YOU... GOING TO SHOOT ME, AMI...?
HA, IS THAT SO...
YOU'VE GOTTA RETURN THAT GUN TO ALABASTER! CAN'T YOU SEE YOU'RE IN WAY OVER YOUR HEAD HERE!?
RIGHT NOW YOU'RE FALL-ING DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO A BOG OF HATE!
AMI, PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT I'M SAYING!


I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, JUST AS I KNOW HOW TO USE THIS GUN. DO YOU WANT ME TO SHOW YOU, MR. COWARD?
ヒュ
ヒュー
ヒュー
AMI, STOP!
ヒュー!

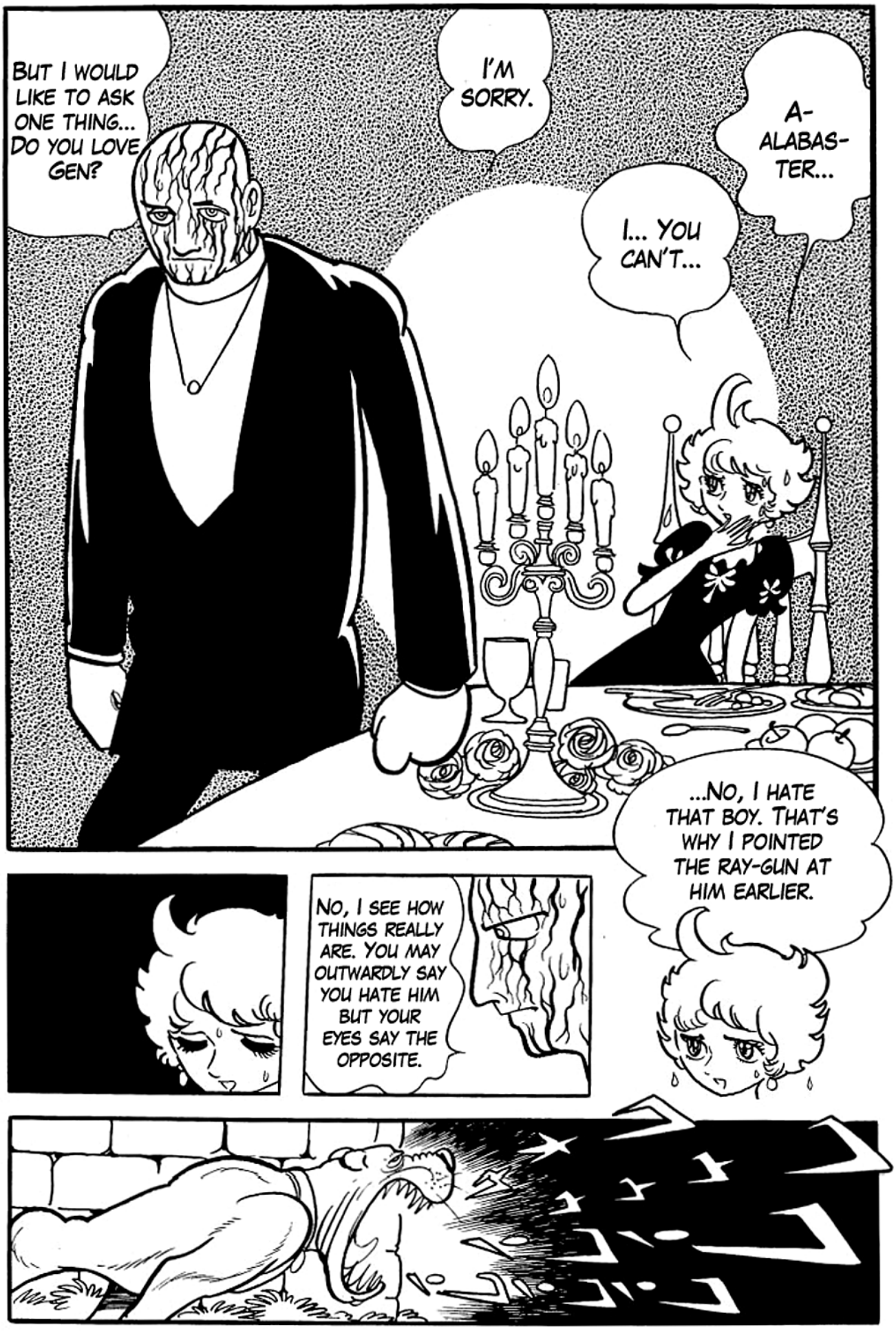

GEN, IF YOU DON'T LIKE HOW I DO THINGS 'ROUND HERE, YOU CAN LEAVE.
THAT'S ENOUGH!

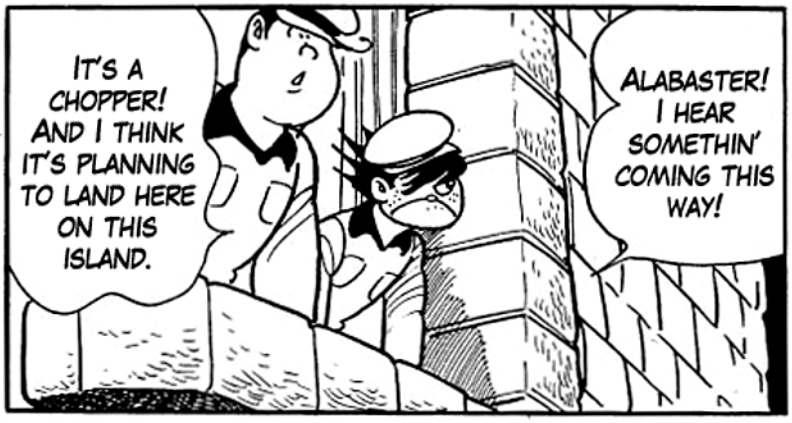

I'M NOT LEAVING!
SO CONSIDER YOUR LIFE FORFEIT IF YOU EVER SQUEAL TO THE POLICE ON US.
I'LL HAVE TO TREAT YOU AS A TRAITOR THOUGH, OF COURSE.
THEN APOLOGIZE TO AMI THIS INSTANT.
AND I STILL WANT TO STAY HERE AND PROTECT AMI AS BEST AS I CAN...
I DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO GO,
UNDERSTOOD, ALABASTER...
GOOD. NOW LOAD THE BODIES ON THE BOAT AN' DUMP THEM OFF SOMEWHERE!
AMI... I'M SORRY...
I WON'T... EVER TRY TO LECTURE YOU AGAIN...

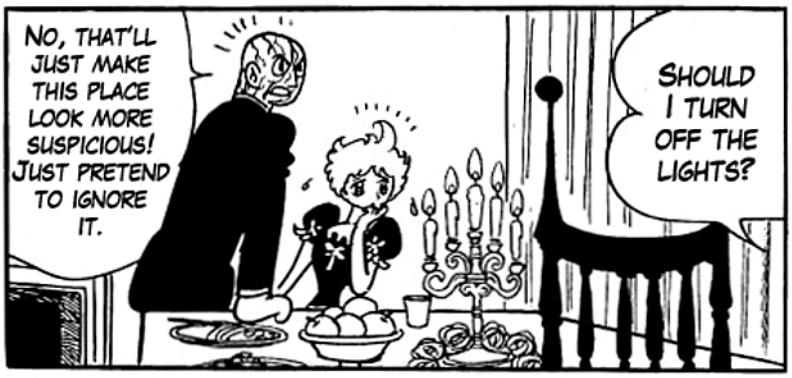
DON'T GET COCKY, ALABASTER... I'LL BEHAVE FOR NOW BUT I SWEAR I'LL FIGHT YOU IN DUE TIME.


I'M TALKIN' ABOUT YOU, OF COURSE.
AMI...
I'M SO GLAD THAT THERE'S FINALLY ANOTHER WHO UNDERSTANDS MY PAIN.

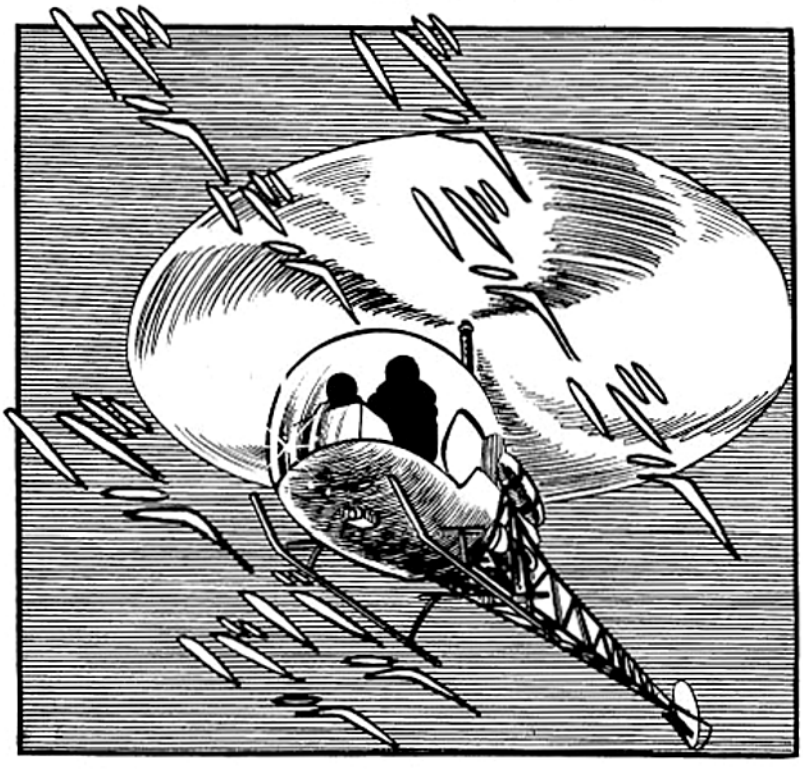
DESTROY THAT WHICH BE CONSIDERED BEAUTIFUL,
WE'LL EXPAND ALL OVER THE WORLD,
AN' LEAVE IN ITS REMAINS, A GROTESQUE HELL ON EARTH...
SO LET US STRIKE BACK AGAINST THIS WORLD TOGETHER.
A SOUL MATE THAT SEES EYE TO EYE WIT' ME!
A TOAST FOR AMI AN' ALABASTER!
A WORLD IN WHICH YOU SHALL REIGN AS QUEEN!
YOU LOOK VERY BEAUTIFUL TONIGHT.
I LOVE YOU...
AMI...

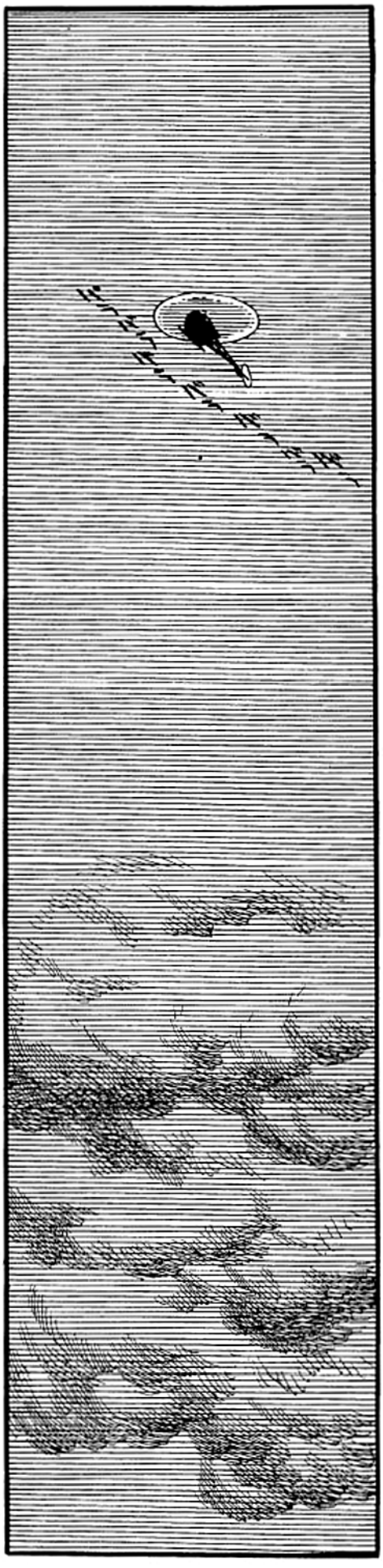

A-ALABAS-TER...
I'M SORRY.
I... YOU CAN'T...
BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ASK ONE THING... DO YOU LOVE GEN?
...NO, I HATE THAT BOY. THAT'S WHY I POINTED THE RAY-GUN AT HIM EARLIER.
NO, I SEE HOW THINGS REALLY ARE. YOU MAY OUTWARDLY SAY YOU HATE HIM BUT YOUR EYES SAY THE OPPOSITE.


IT'S A CHOPPER! AND I THINK IT'S PLANNING TO LAND HERE ON THIS ISLAND.
ALABASTER! I HEAR SOMETHIN' COMING THIS WAY!

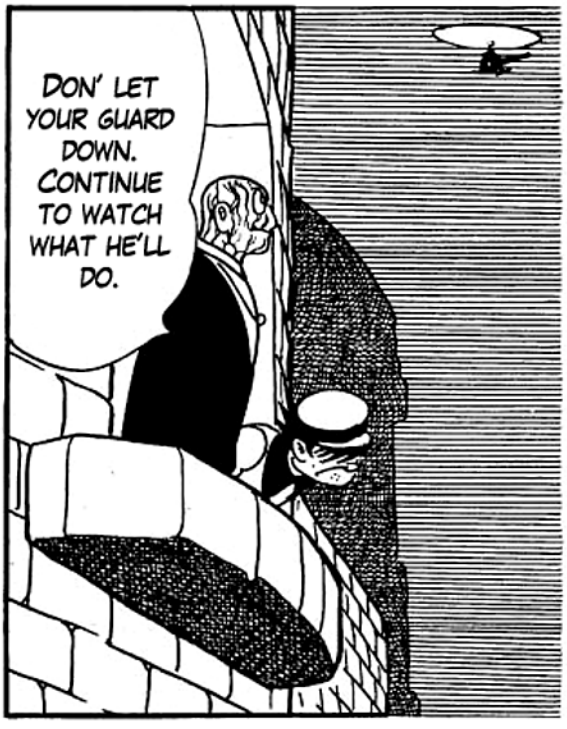

NO, THAT'LL JUST MAKE THIS PLACE LOOK MORE SUSPICIOUS! JUST PRETEND TO IGNORE IT.
SHOULD I TURN OFF THE LIGHTS?

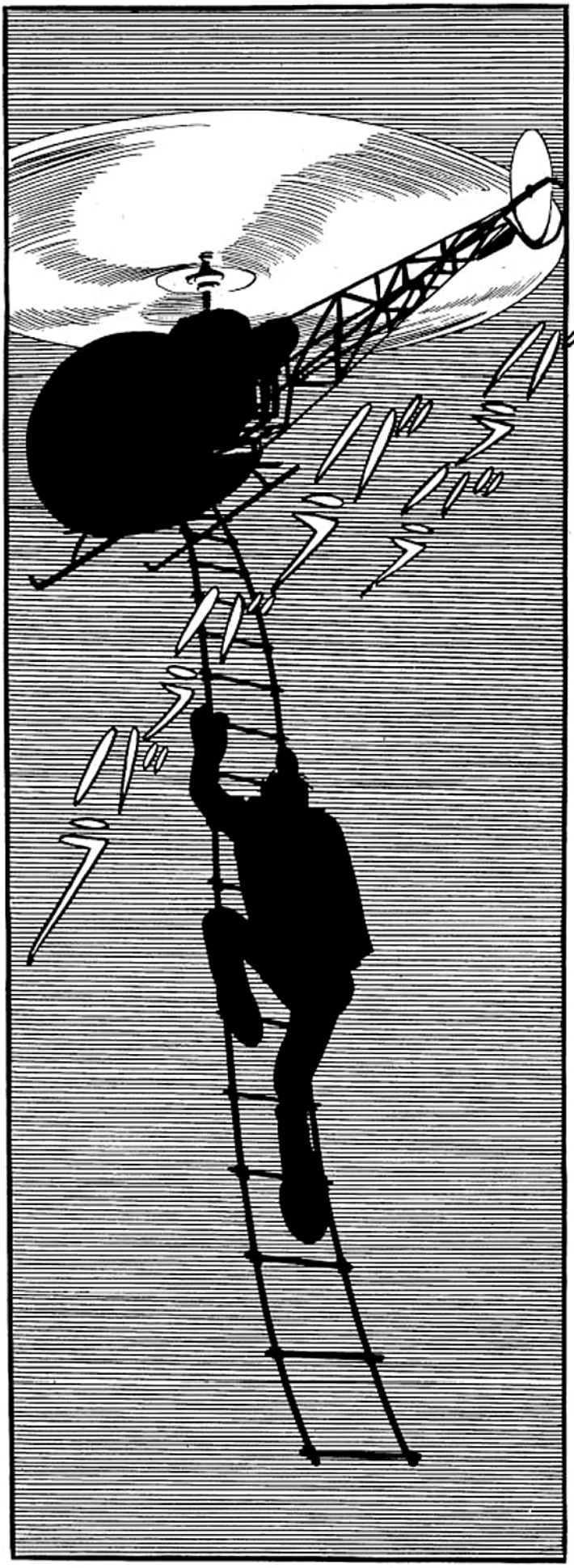
IF IT'S ACTUALLY ROCK, THEN HE'D BE A MOTH FLYING INTO A FLAME. HAHA, LET US GIVE HIM A PROPER WELCOME...
I WONDER WHO IT IS... COULD IT BE ROCK?

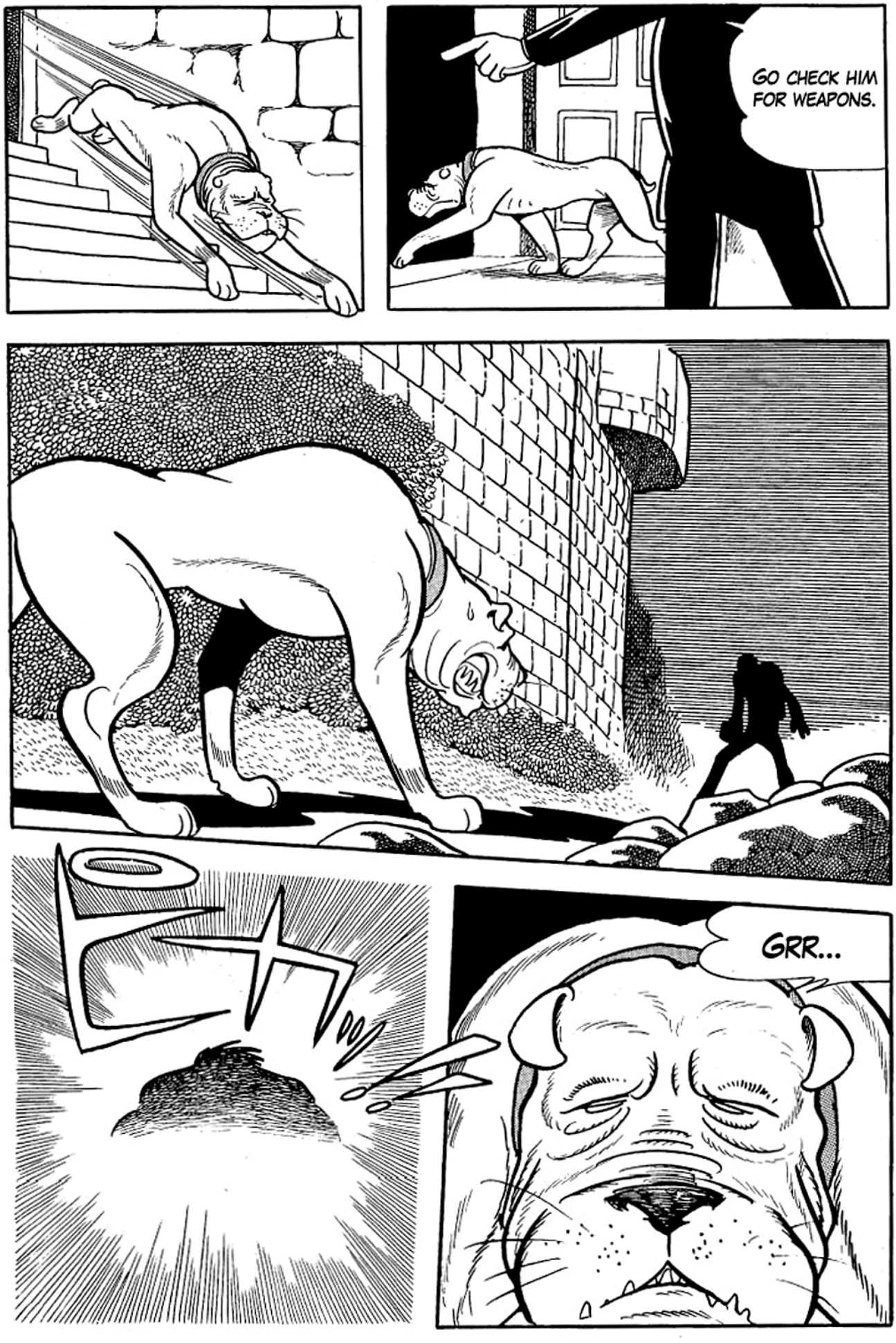


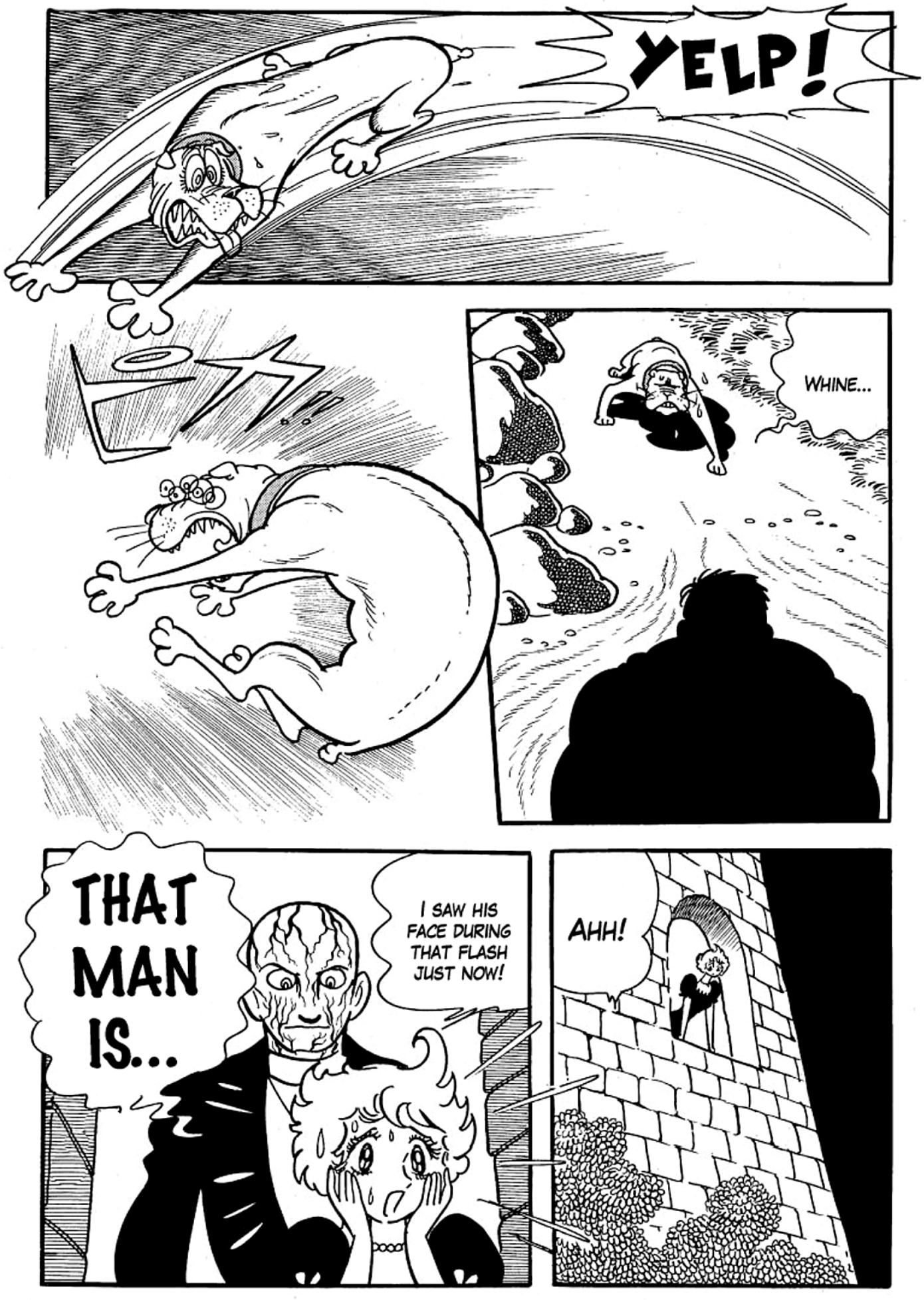


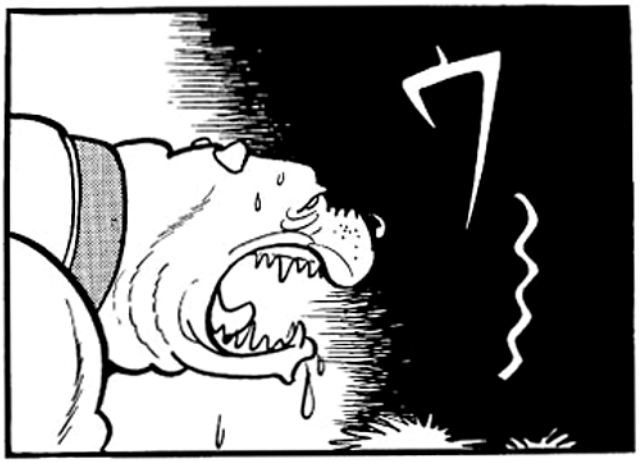
ONLY ONE PERSON GOT OFF.
AND IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ROCK.

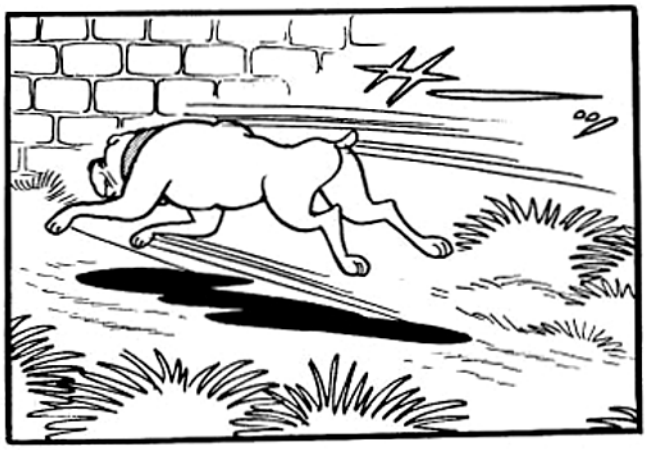

DON' LET YOUR GUARD DOWN. CONTINUE TO WATCH WHAT HE'LL DO.



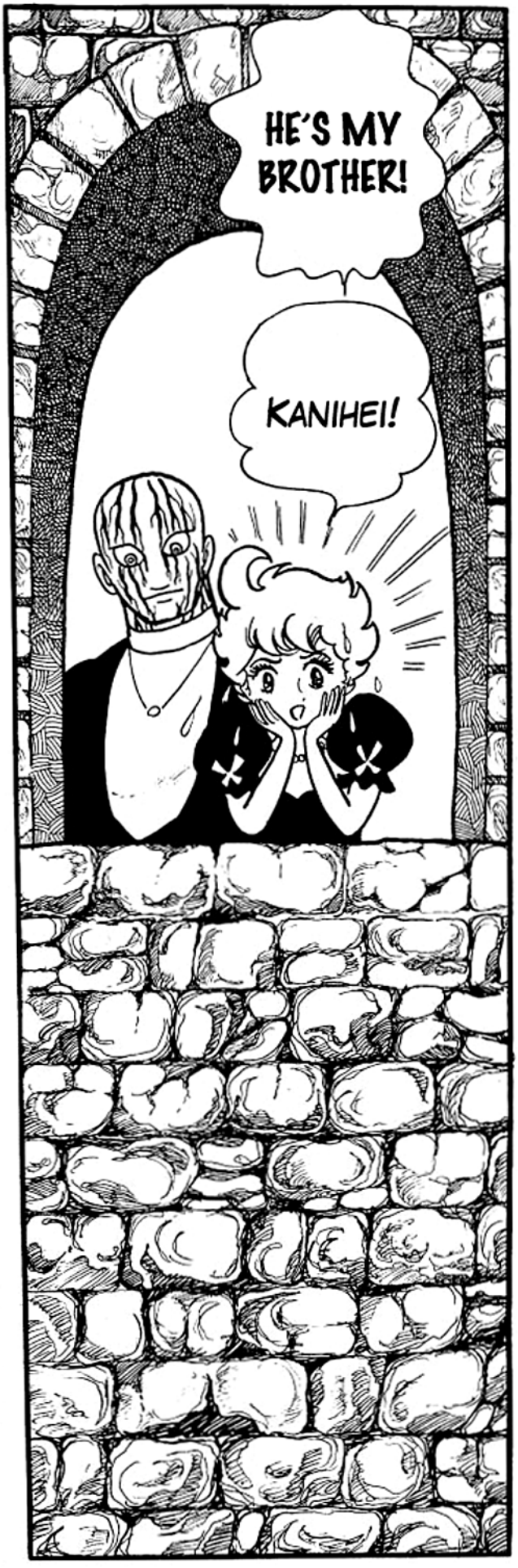

GO CHECK HIM FOR WEAPONS.
GRR...

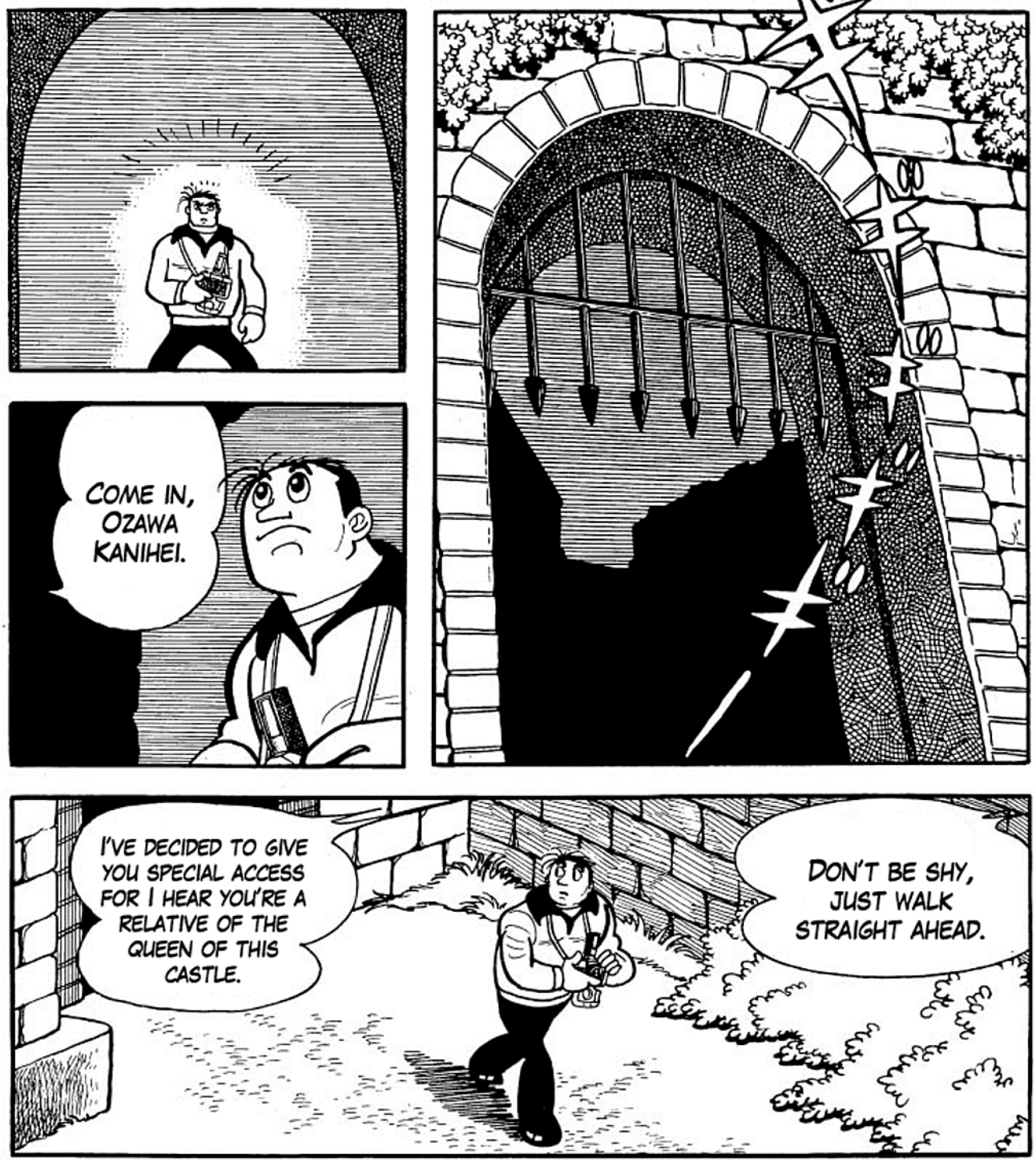

YELP!
WHINE...
THAT MAN IS...
I SAW HIS FACE DURING THAT FLASH JUST NOW!
AHH!





WHEW...


HE'S MY BROTHER!
KANIHEI!


COME IN, OZAWA KANIHEI.
I'VE DECIDED TO GIVE YOU SPECIAL ACCESS FOR I HEAR YOU'RE A RELATIVE OF THE QUEEN OF THIS CASTLE.
DON'T BE SHY, JUST WALK STRAIGHT AHEAD.
NOW COME IN.
WHY YES IT IS. THE LAST TIME WE MET, YOU WERE JUST A LITTLE CHILD. HOW MUCH YOU'VE GROWN SINCE THEN!
IS THAT YOU, ALABASTER!?

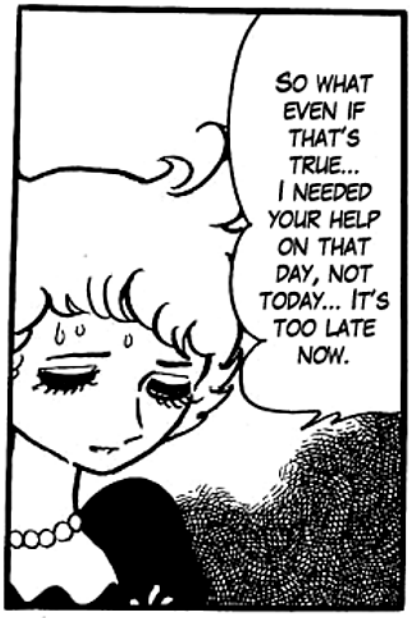
DON'T COME CLOSE!
AMI! SO THIS IS WHERE YOU WERE!
AMI, I CAME HERE TO SEE YOU OF COURSE.
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I'M AN OUTLAW, WHICH MAKES US ENEMIES.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, BROTHER?
IS THAT WHAT A BROTHER WHO WANTS TO SEE HIS SISTER DOES? NO, OF COURSE NOT! THEN AGAIN, I'M NOT EVEN YOUR REAL SISTER. I'M JUST SOME STRANGER WHO PRETENDED TO BE YOUR SISTER FOR SOME TIME LONG AGO.
THEN WHY DID YOU HANG UP THE PHONE WHEN I TRIED CALLING YOU?
OH REALLY?

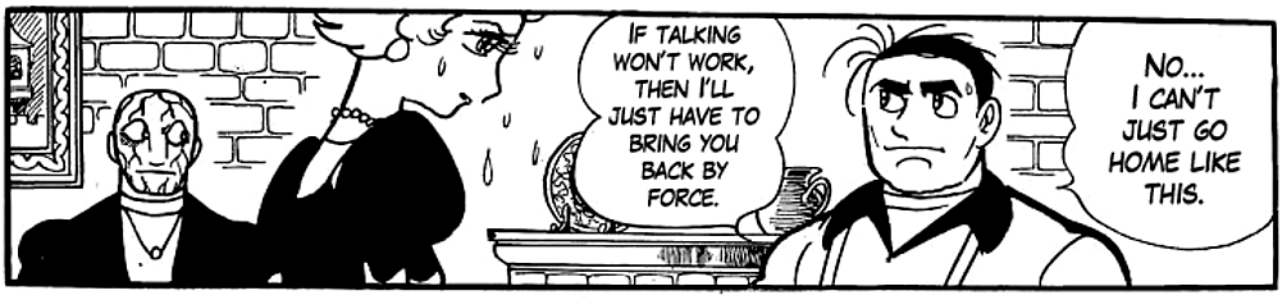
YOU'RE LYING!
NO I'M NOT! I SWEAR!
YES YOU ARE!
LOOK AT MY EYES! DO THESE EYES LOOK LIKE THOSE OF A LIAR!?
I STILL CAN'T TRUST YOU. HOW DID YOU EVEN FIND ABOUT THIS PLACE?
NO, YOU'RE MISTAKEN! THE REASON WHY I ENDED THAT CALL SO QUICKLY THAT TIME WAS TO IMMEDIATELY CHECK WHICH PUBLIC TELEPHONE YOU CALLED FROM SO I COULD GO FIND YOU!
EVER SINCE YOU LEFT, I'VE BEEN PRAYING EVERY DAY FOR YOU TO CALL AGAIN!
AND I SWEAR I'VE COME HERE ALONE.
I HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD OUR MOTHER ABOUT THIS, LET ALONE THE POLICE!

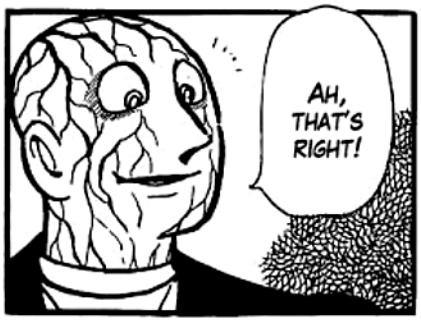
I CAME HERE ALONE AS SOON AS I FIGURED THAT OUT BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
AT LAST, I LEARNED THAT THE BOAT SEEN IN MY PHOTOS WAS SOMETIMES SEEN SAILING BACK AND FORTH TO THE MAINLAND FROM THIS ISLAND.
I TOOK OVER 300 PHOTOS WITH MY INFRARED CAMERA BUT ONLY 2 PHOTOS MANAGED TO CATCH A BOAT SPEEDING AWAY. I'VE BEEN GOING FROM PORT TO PORT IN SEARCH OF THAT BOAT.
I WORK AS A NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHER AND ON THE NIGHT WHEN THE POLICE WERE LOOKING FOR YOU ON THE COAST, I WAS ALSO THERE LOOKING FOR YOU.

GO BACK AN' TELL A CERTAIN CROSS-DRESSING DETECTIVE THAT AMI HAS CUT OFF ALL TIES WIT' HER FAMILY. THE ONLY WAY SHE'D EVER SEE THEM AGAIN IS IF THE POLICE EVER BROUGHT HER TO TRIAL.

YOU HEARD HER, KANIHEI. IT'S TOO LATE.


SO WHAT EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE... I NEEDED YOUR HELP ON THAT DAY, NOT TODAY... IT'S TOO LATE NOW.


NO... I CAN'T JUST GO HOME LIKE THIS.
IF TALKING WON'T WORK, THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO BRING YOU BACK BY FORCE.

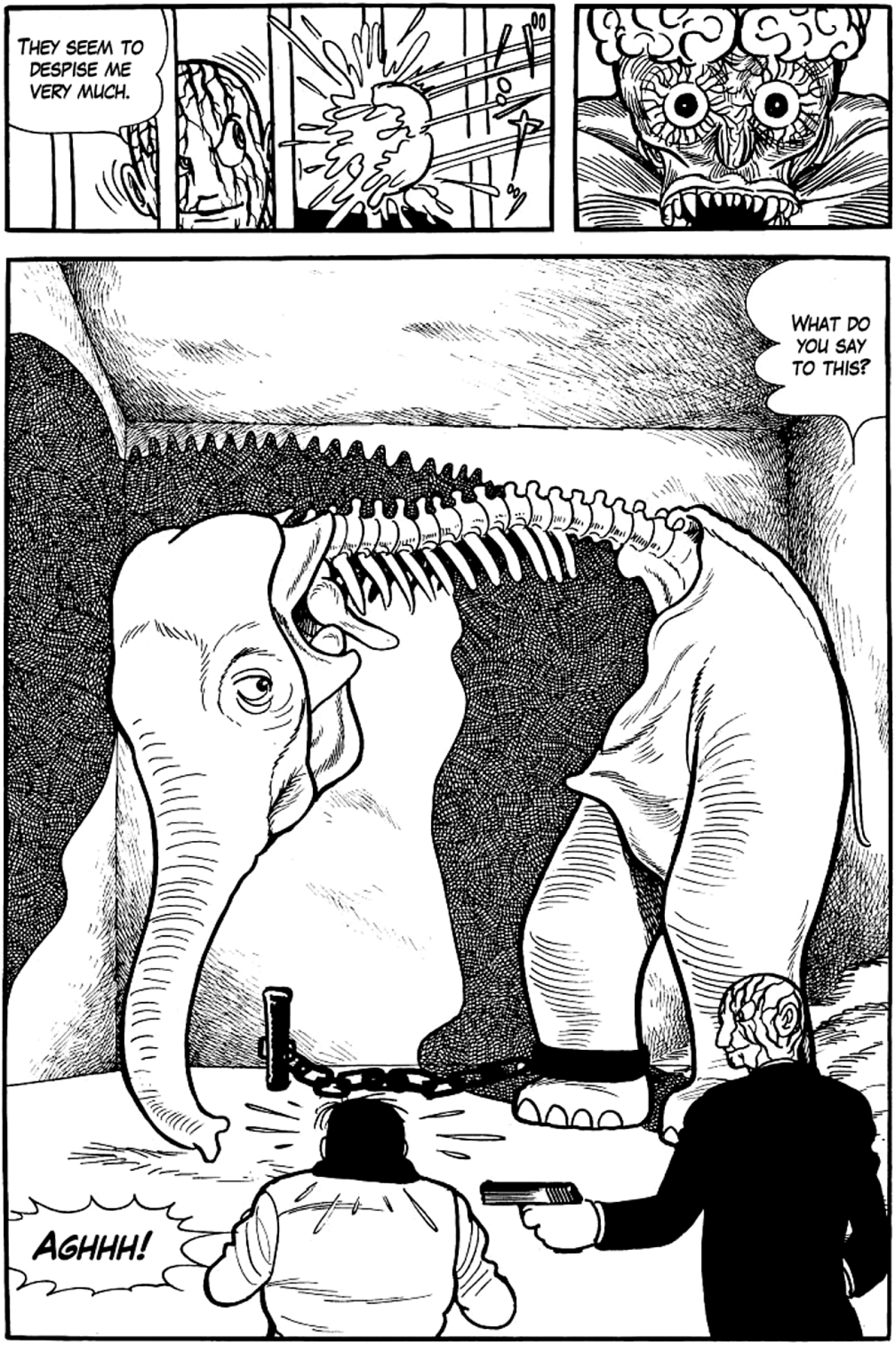

AH, THAT'S RIGHT!

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, PAL.
ALABASTER'S ALREADY TOLD YOU ONCE TO LEAVE.

ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING. IT MIGHT BE QUITE THE SCOOP FOR A NEWSPAPER CAMERAMAN.

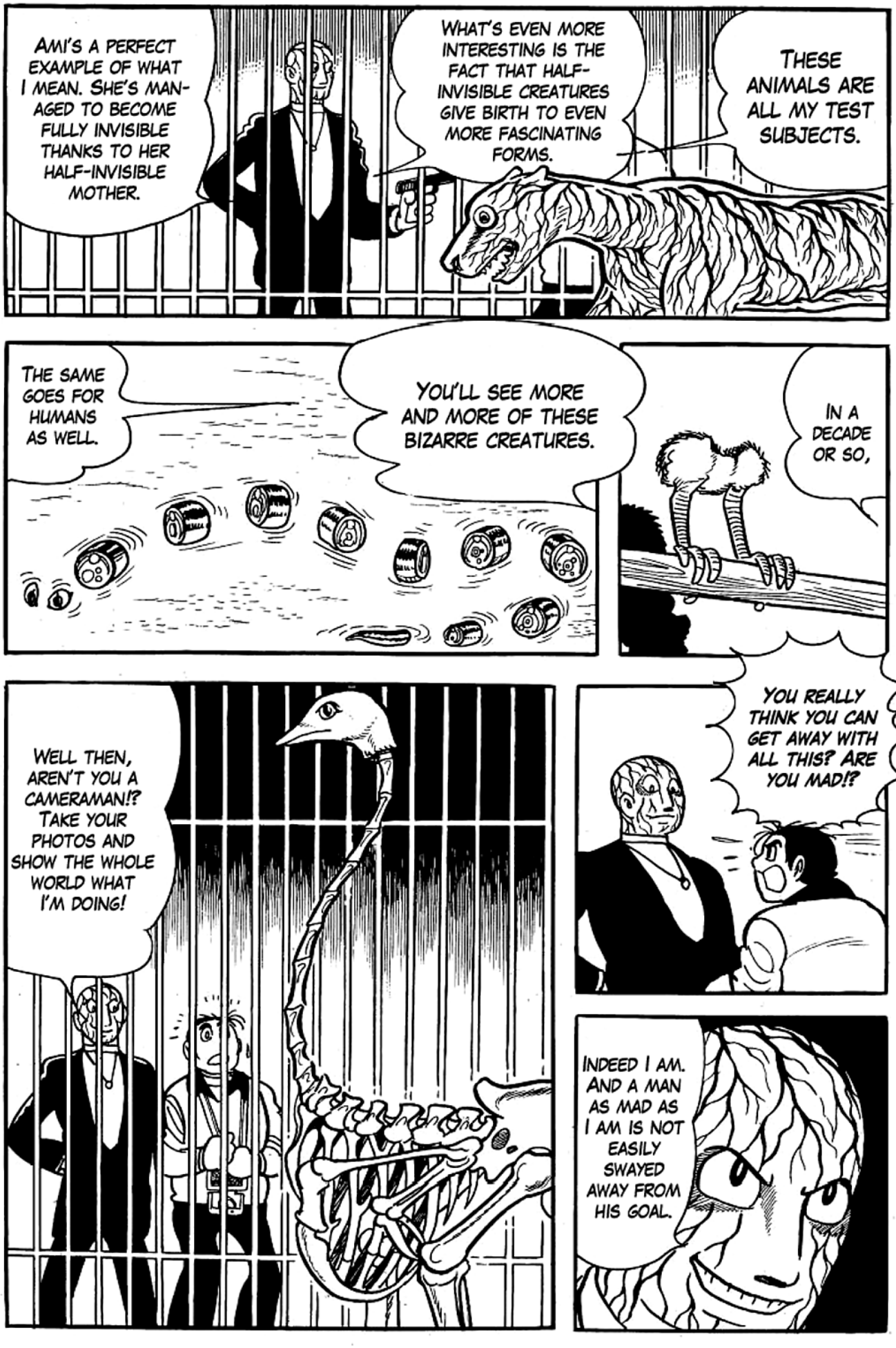
AHH!

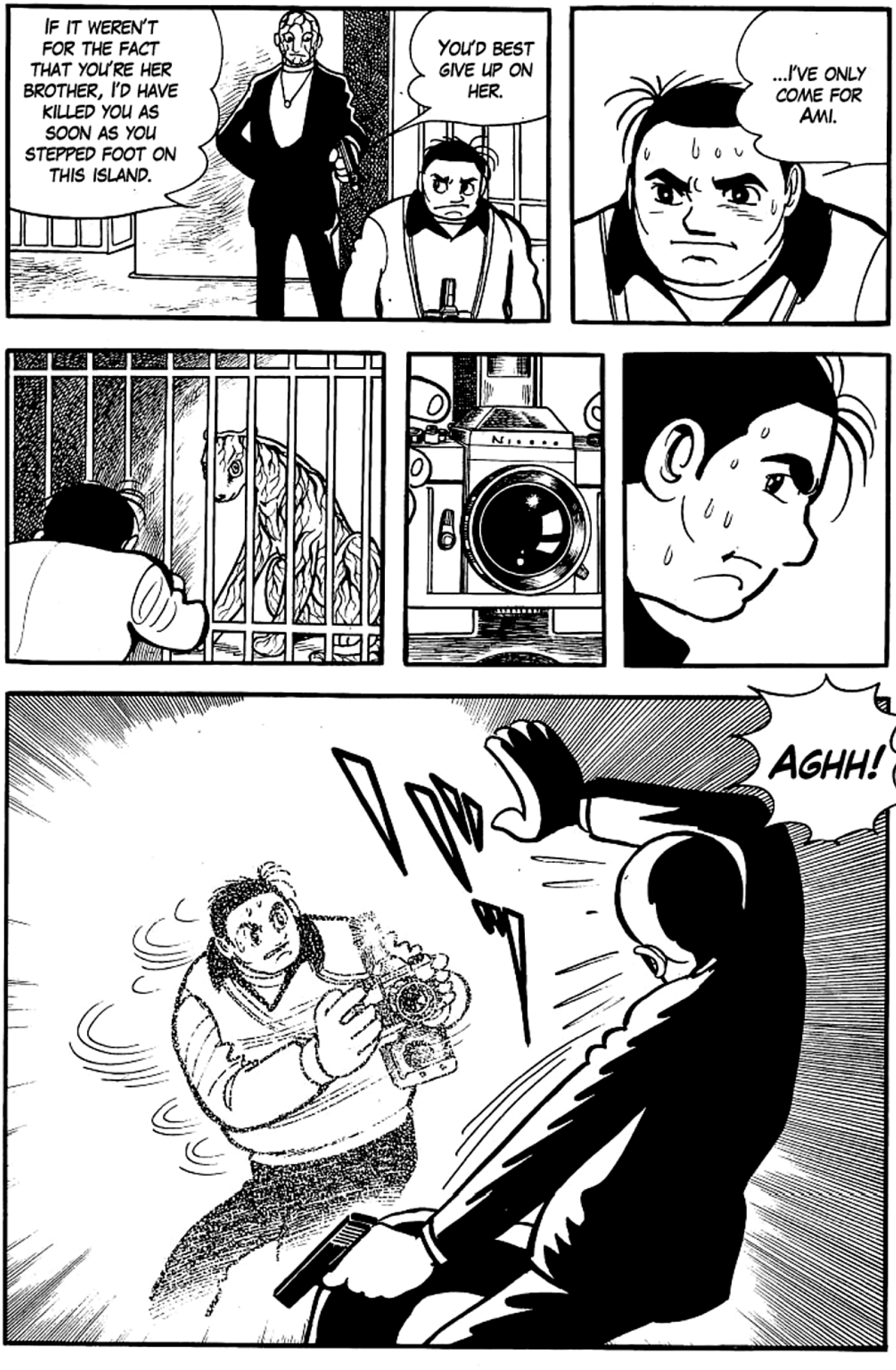
YES, A GORILLA TURNED HALF-INVISIBLE AFTER EXPOSURE TO A CERTAIN RAY-GUN, MUCH LIKE MY BODY.
A GORILLA?
W-WHAT IS THAT!?

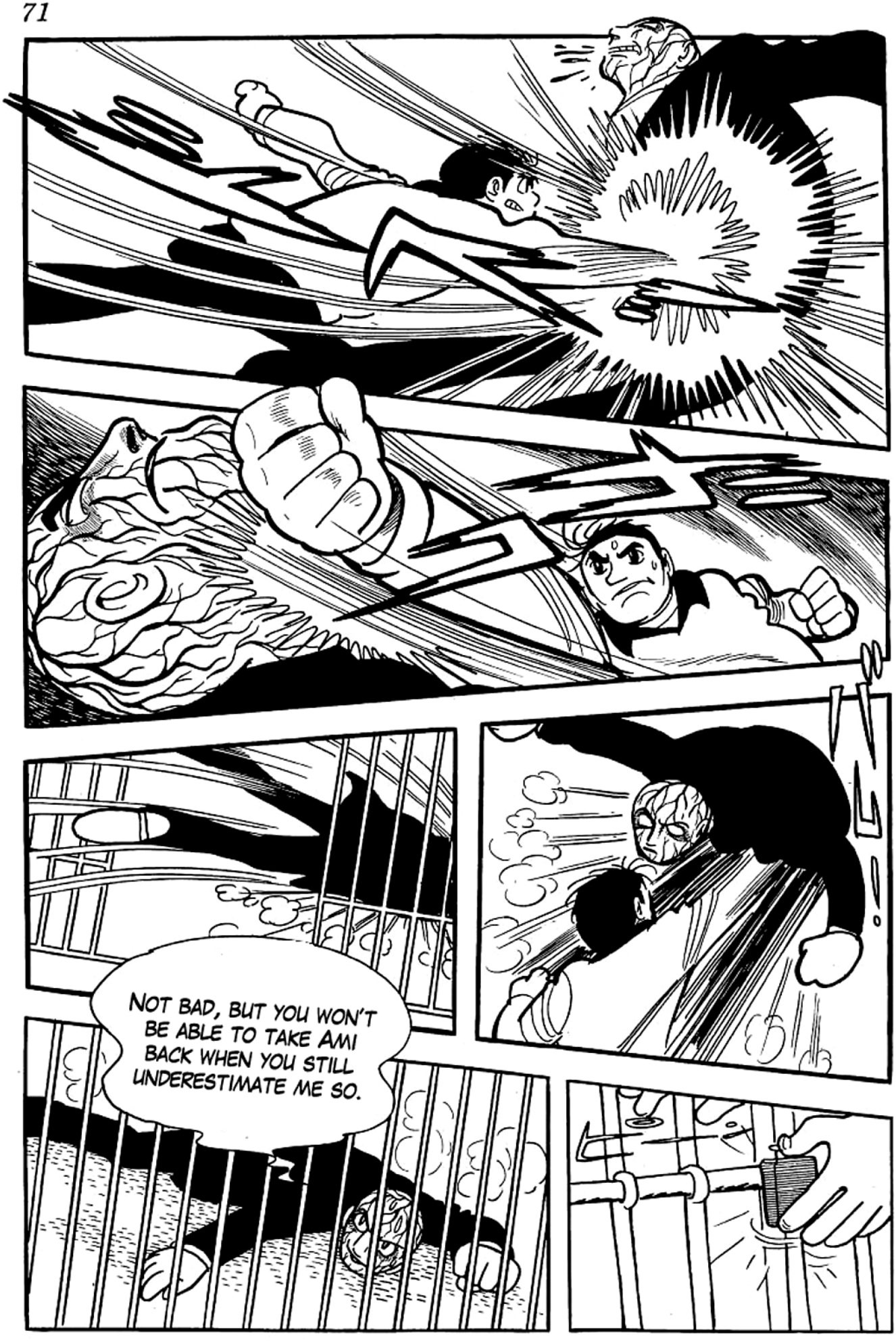

THEY SEEM TO DESPISE ME VERY MUCH.
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THIS?
AGHHH!

CAN YOUR RAY-GUN REALLY TURN ANYTHING INVISIBLE?
AND HERE IS A BIRD-OF-PARADISE, CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF NATURE'S MOST BEAUTIFUL CREATURES.
EVEN THE LION, KING OF BEASTS, HAS LOST ITS ONCE MAJESTIC FIGURE.
HOW HORRIFYING...
JUST AS I'VE DONE HERE, I WISH TO DISFIGURE EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD, WHETHER MAN OR BEAST, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
WHY'RE ALL THESE ANIMALS ONLY HALF INVISIBLE?
TURNING SOMETHING COMPLETELY INVISIBLE IS A FATAL AFFAIR... A PART OF THE BODY MUST BE LEFT VISIBLE IN ORDER TO NOT KILL IT.
UNFORTUNATELY,

HOW CRUEL...

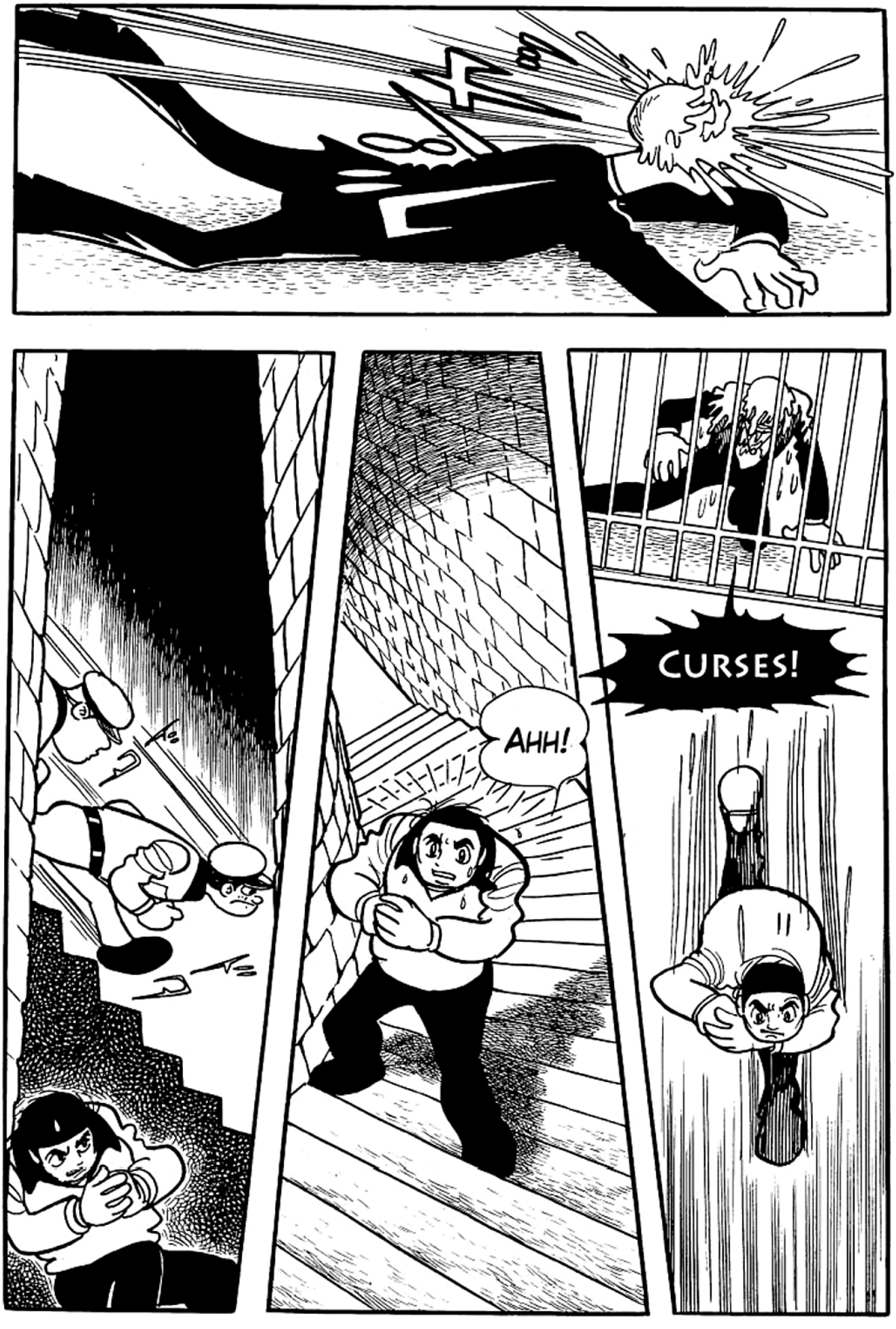

AMI'S A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF WHAT I MEAN. SHE'S MANAGED TO BECOME FULLY INVISIBLE THANKS TO HER HALF-INVISIBLE MOTHER.
WHAT'S EVEN MORE INTERESTING IS THE FACT THAT HALF-INVISIBLE CREATURES GIVE BIRTH TO EVEN MORE FASCINATING FORMS.
THESE ANIMALS ARE ALL MY TEST SUBJECTS.
THE SAME GOES FOR HUMANS AS WELL.
YOU'LL SEE MORE AND MORE OF THESE BIZARRE CREATURES.
IN A DECADE OR SO,
WELL THEN, AREN'T YOU A CAMERAMAN!? TAKE YOUR PHOTOS AND SHOW THE WHOLE WORLD WHAT I'M DOING!
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH ALL THIS? ARE YOU MAD!?
INDEED I AM. AND A MAN AS MAD AS I AM IS NOT EASILY SWAYED AWAY FROM HIS GOAL.


IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE FACT THAT YOU'RE HER BROTHER, I'D HAVE KILLED YOU AS SOON AS YOU STEPPED FOOT ON THIS ISLAND.
YOU'D BEST GIVE UP ON HER.
...I'VE ONLY COME FOR AMI.
AGHH!


NOT BAD, BUT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE AMI BACK WHEN YOU STILL UNDERESTIMATE ME SO.

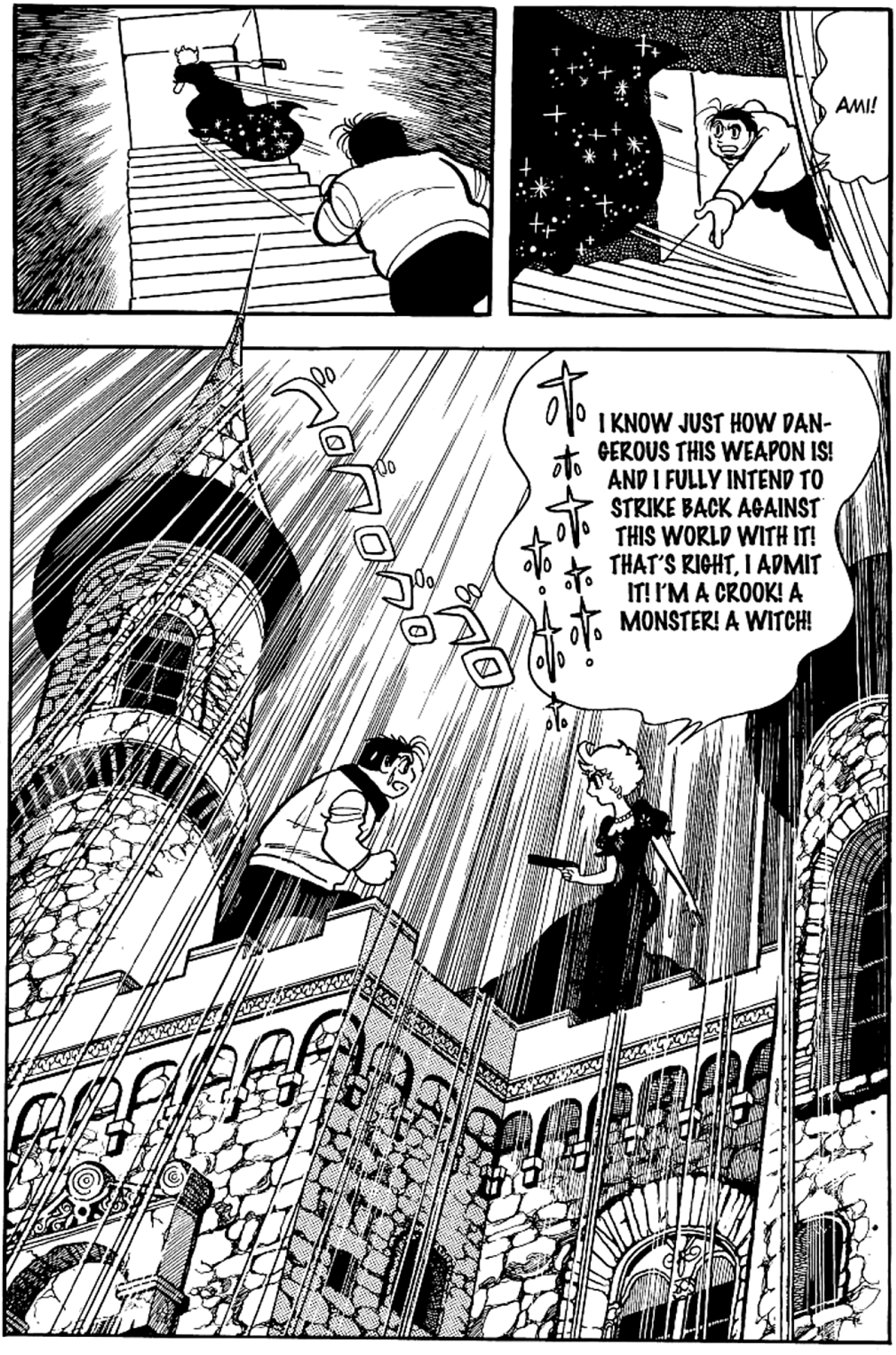
YOU TALK PRETTY BIG FOR A MAN LOCKED BEHIND BARS.
I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO STRIKE BACK,
SO I COULD GIVE AMI A PROPER EXCUSE FOR KILLING YOU, HAHAHA...
MOVE EVEN AN INCH AND I'LL HAPPILY DEMONSTRATE ON YOU...
OH, I HAVE SOMETHING FAR MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THAT.
A GUN?
HEH.
. . . . . .
AGHHH!

WELL? WHAT'LL YOU DO? ARE YOU JUST GONNA CROUCH THERE FOREVER?
THE NEXT TIME YOU MOVE, I'LL AIM STRAIGHT FOR YOUR HEART.
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT? QUITE EFFECTIVE, RIGHT?
AND WHEN YOU DO, THAT'LL BE YOUR END.
YOU'LL MOVE SOONER OR LATER,
TRY AS YOU MIGHT, BUT THAT'S AN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION TO MAINTAIN.

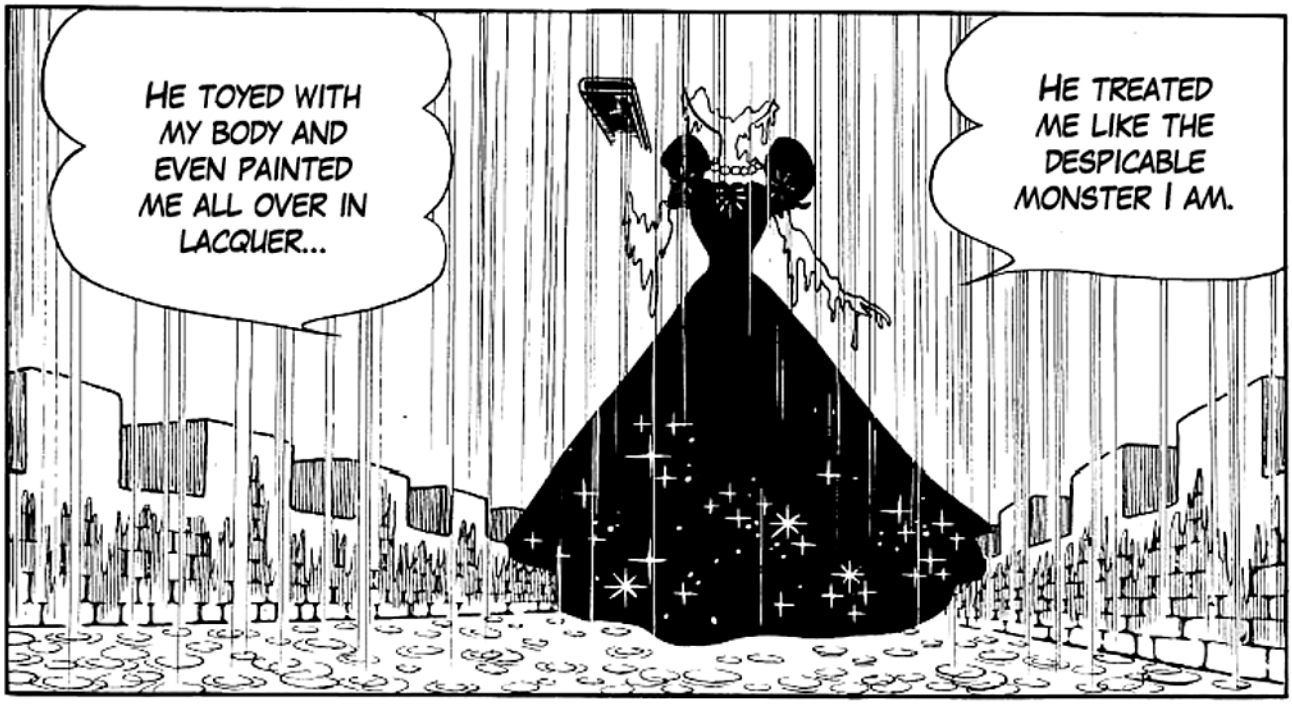

AHH!
CURSES!

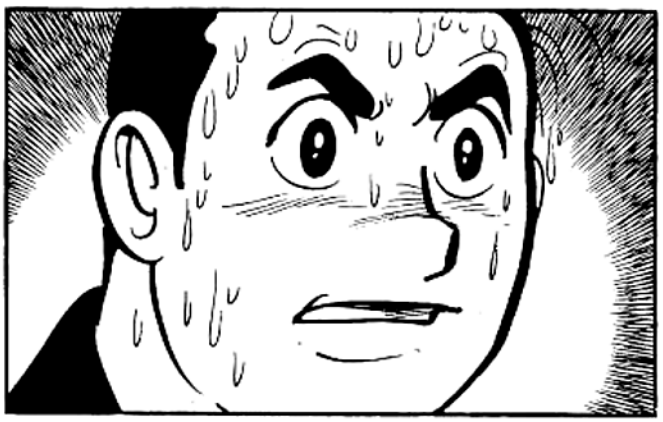
AMI!
I'LL FIND A GOOD WAY TO THOROUGHLY DESTROY IT.
FOR YOU OR ANYONE IN THIS WORLD TO HAVE.
THAT WEAPON'S MUCH TOO DANGEROUS,
SO GIVE IT HERE.
AMI, HAND OVER THE RAY-GUN!
HAND IT OVER!
QUICKLY!
NOOO!

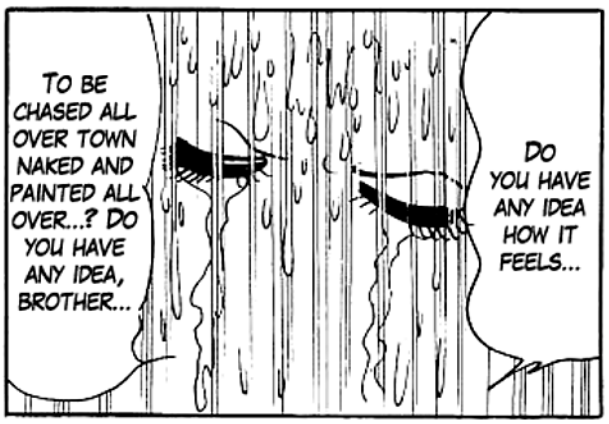
NOO!
THIS GUN IS MINE AND I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE WITH IT! IF YOU GET ANY CLOSER, I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SHOOT YOU!
AMI, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! YOU HAVE TO GIVE THAT TO ME!


AMI!
I KNOW JUST HOW DANGEROUS THIS WEAPON IS! AND I FULLY INTEND TO STRIKE BACK AGAINST THIS WORLD WITH IT! THAT'S RIGHT, I ADMIT IT! I'M A CROOK! A MONSTER! A WITCH!
ゴロゴロゴロゴロ

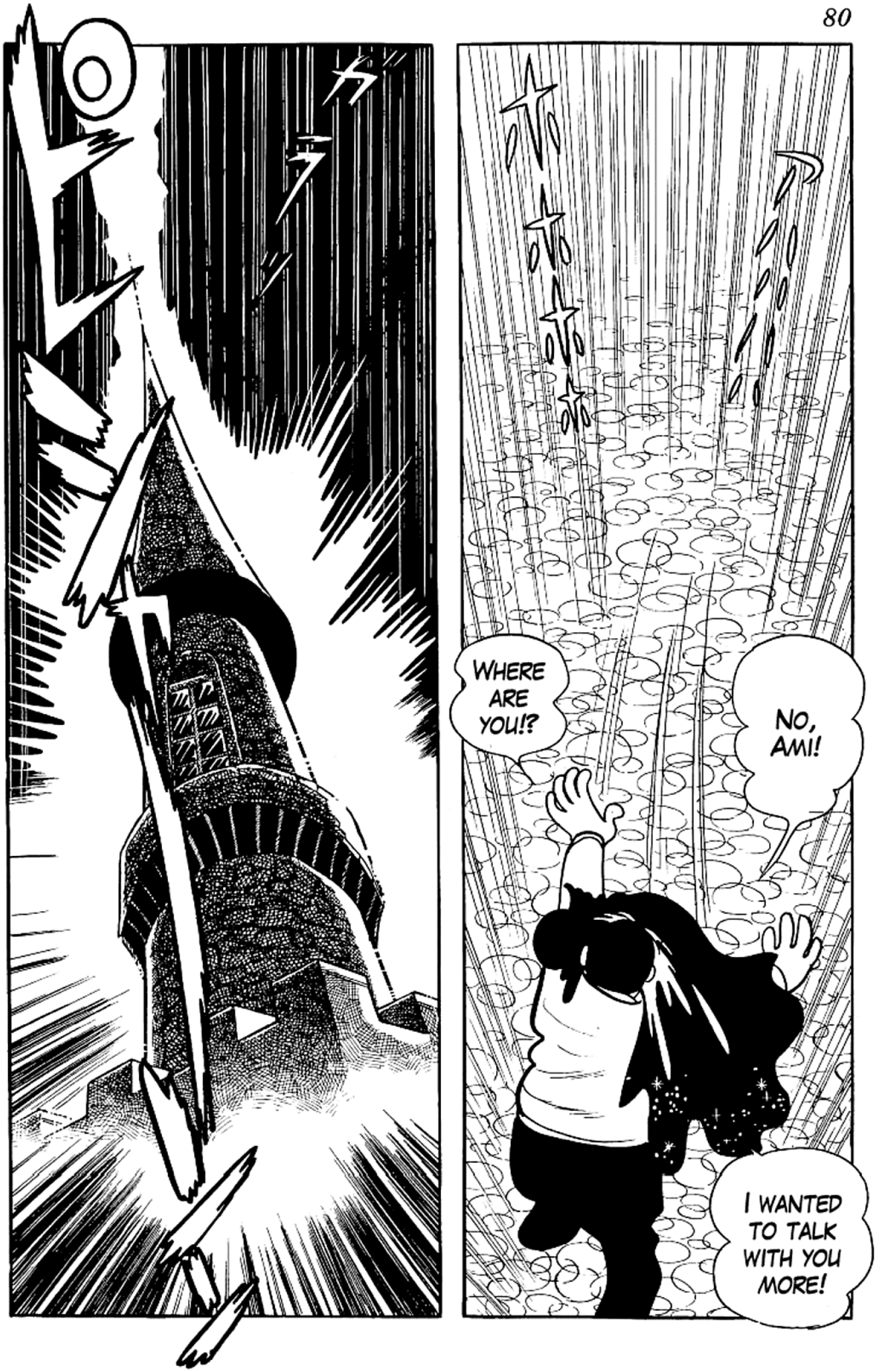
MY HEART'S AS BLACK AS COAL NOW!
THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST NOW.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU USED TO BE SUCH A KIND LITTLE GIRL...
AMI, LISTEN TO YOURSELF RIGHT NOW...
THAT'S A LIE! AS YOUR BROTHER, I KNOW THAT YOU'RE STILL GOOD, DEEP DOWN INSIDE!
WHAT HAPPENED, AMI? TELL ME!
TELL ME!
IT WAS, WASN'T IT?
WHAT DID ROCK HOLMES DO TO YOU!?
ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, I HEARD HE ARRESTED YOU TEMPORARILY...
WAS IT ROCK, THE F.B.I. AGENT?
.....


He toyed with my body and even painted me all over in lacquer...
He treated me like the despicable monster I am.

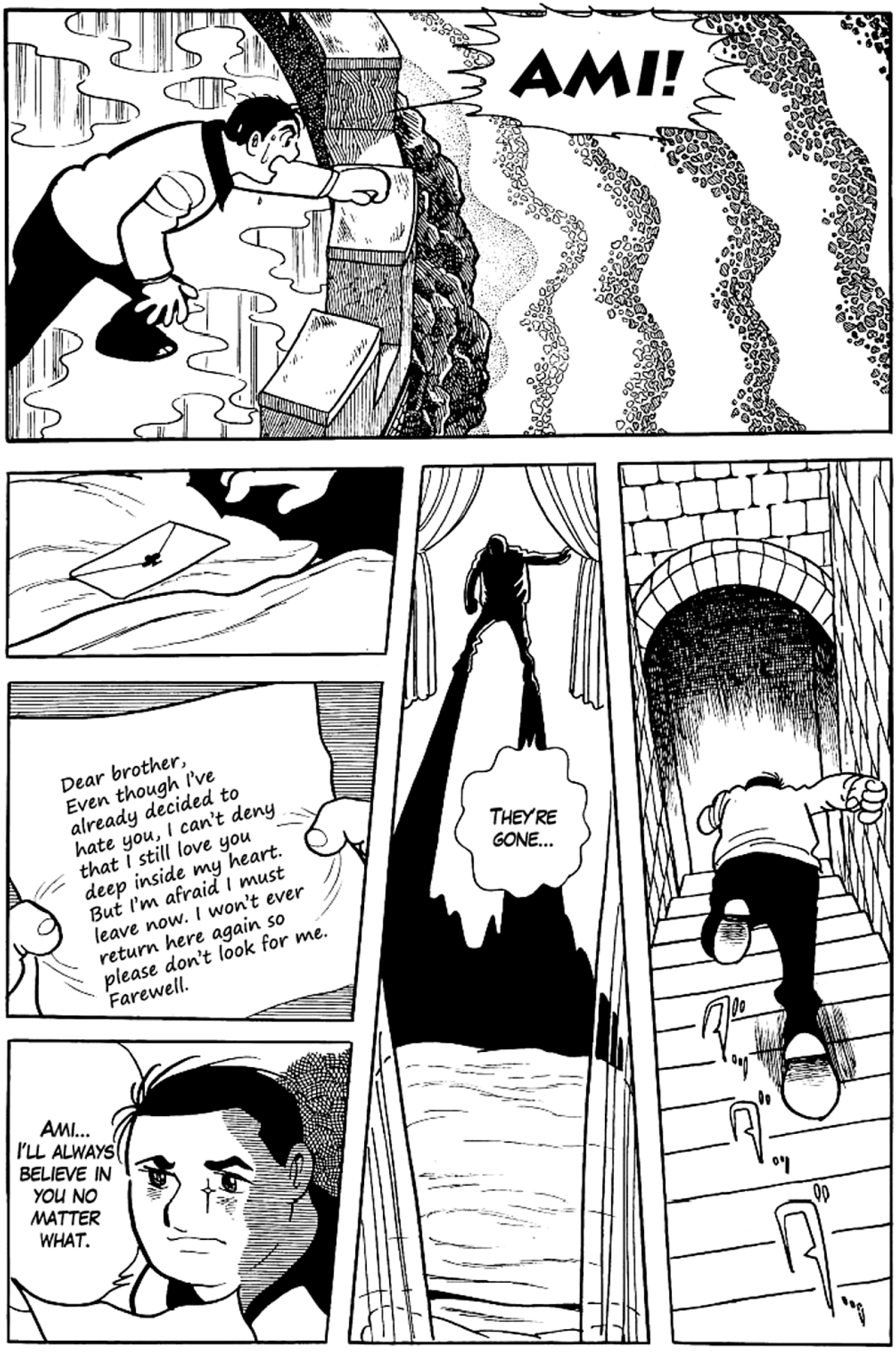



To be chased all over town naked and painted all over...? Do you have any idea, brother...
Do you have any idea how it feels...

Ami, no! Don't take off your dress!

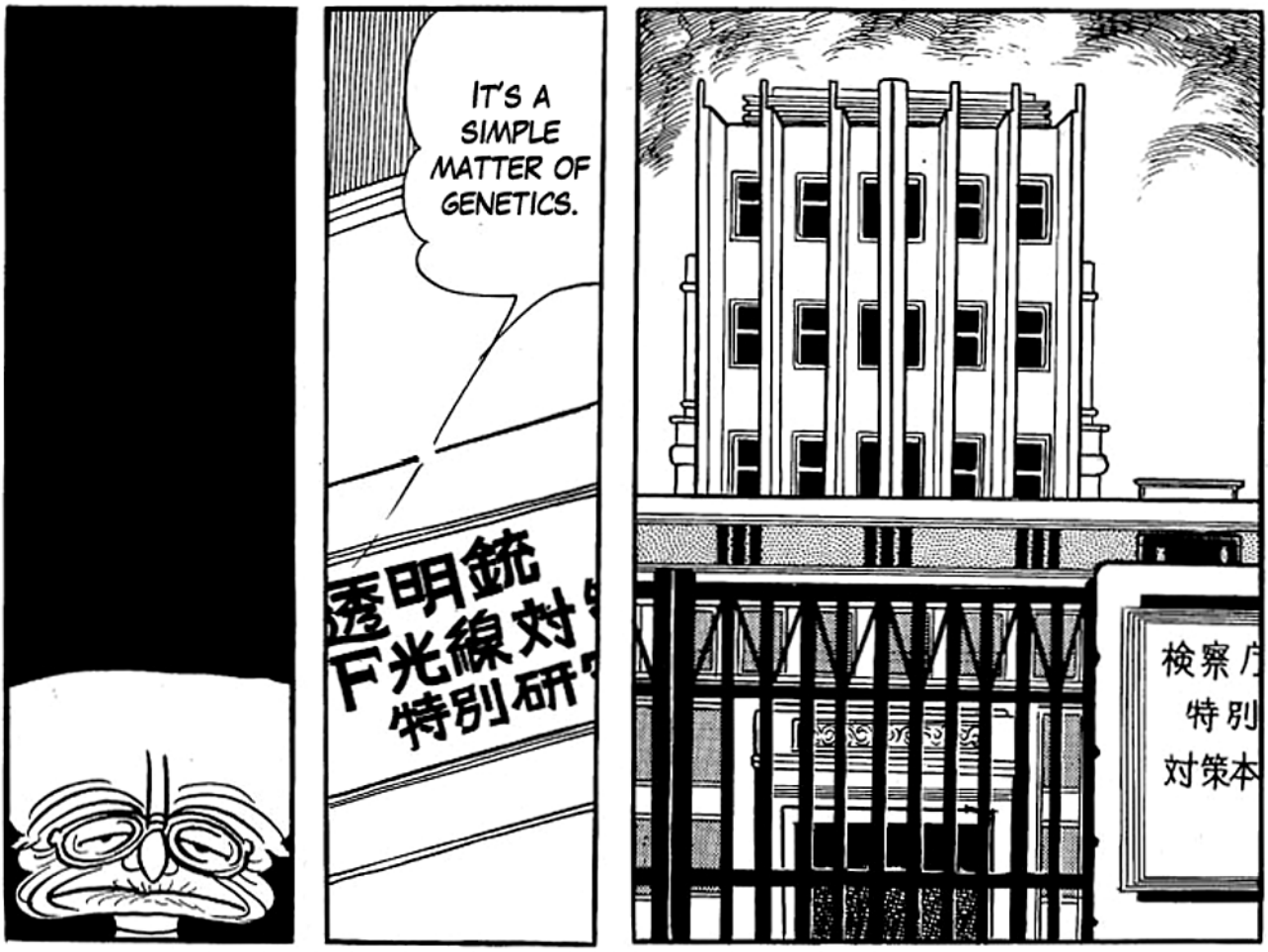

WHERE ARE YOU!?
NO, AMI!
I WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU MORE!

AMI?

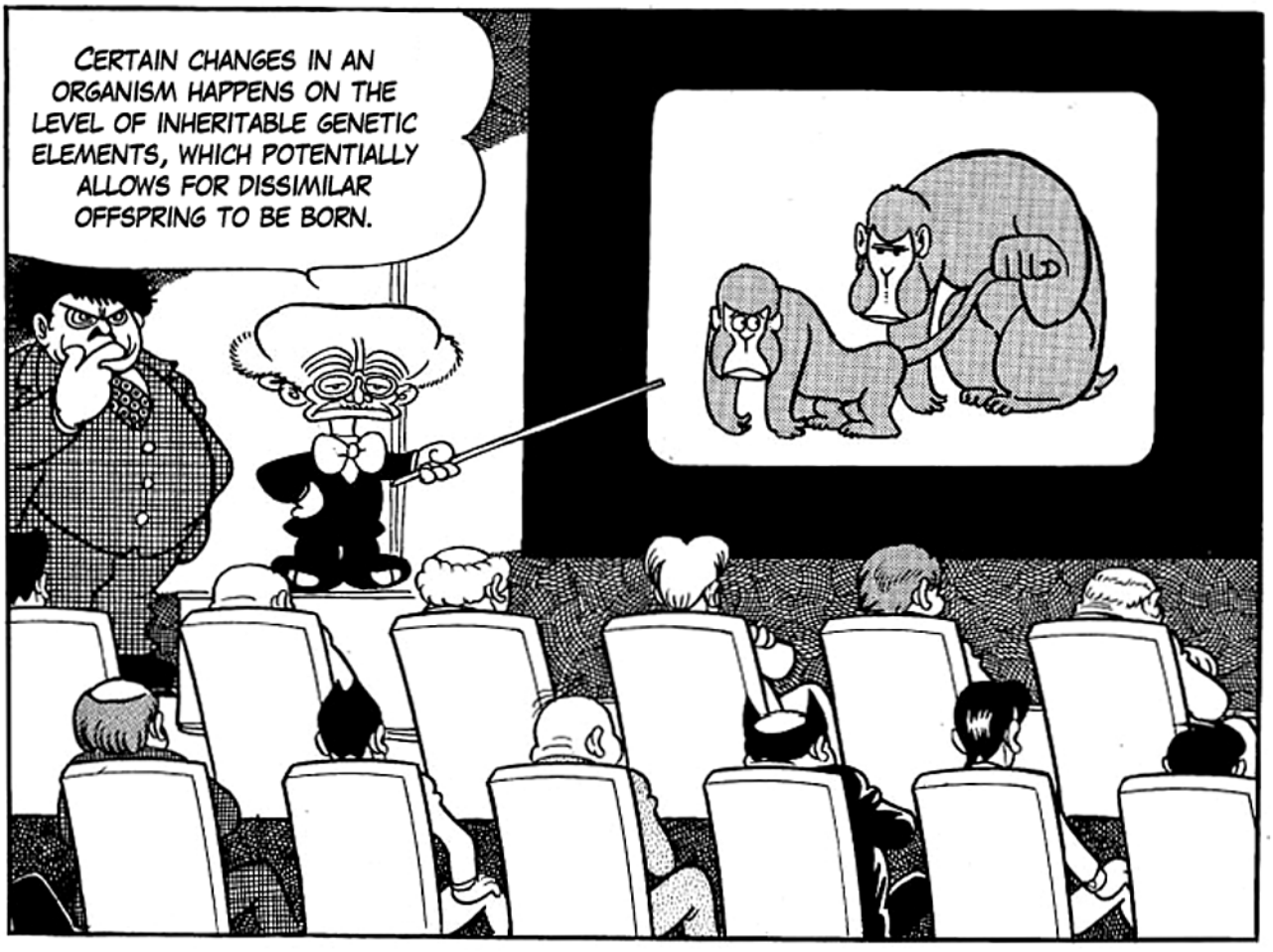

AMI!
Dear brother,
Even though I've already decided to hate you, I can't deny that I still love you deep inside my heart. But I'm afraid I must leave now. I won't ever return here again so please don't look for me.
Farewell.
THEY'RE GONE...
AMI... I'LL ALWAYS BELIEVE IN YOU NO MATTER WHAT.

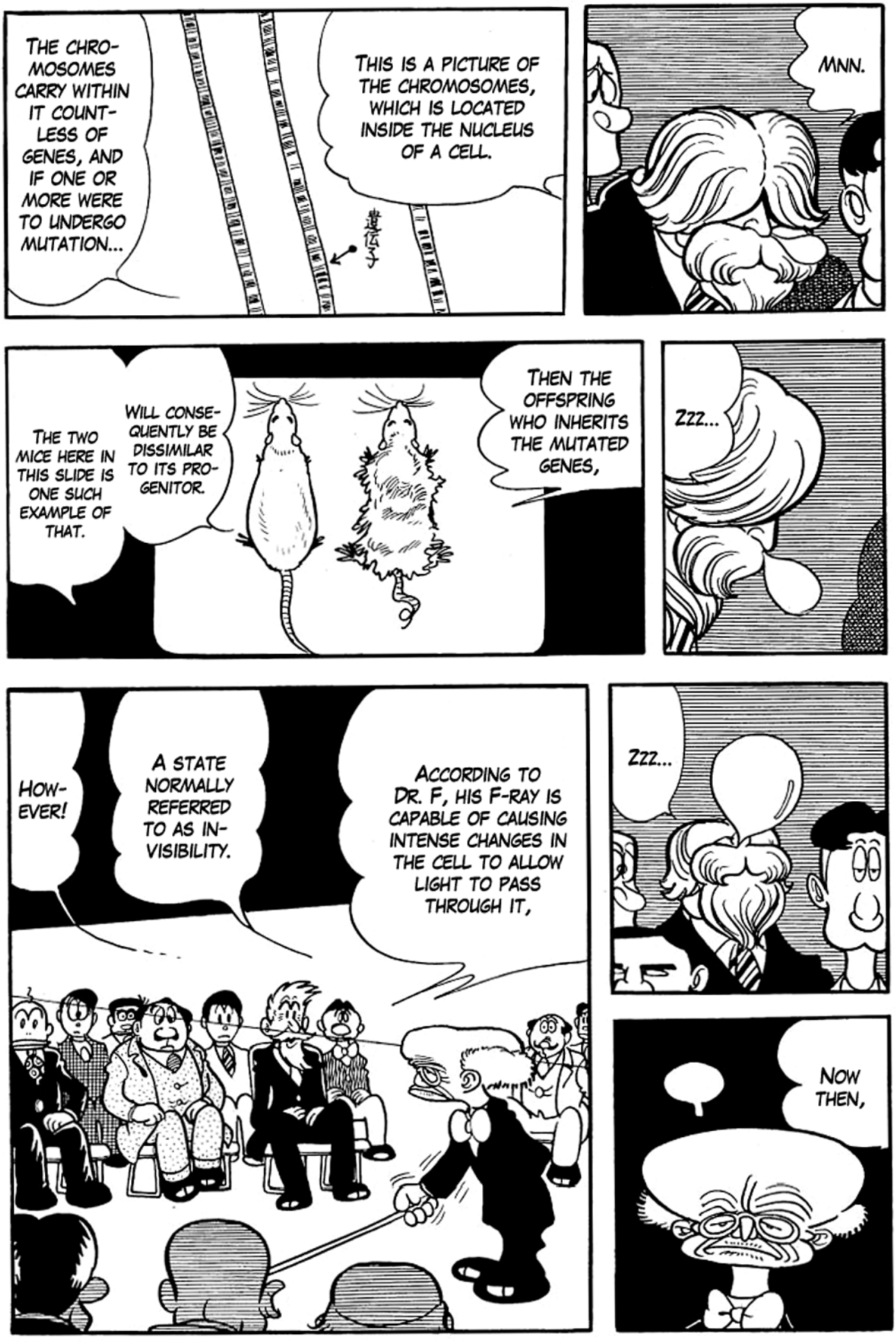
AMIIIIII!

THE ANIMALS ARE ALL GONE TOO...
WHO KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THIS WORLD IF ALABASTER CONTINUES TO RUN AMOK!?
I'VE GOTTA STOP HIM AND BRING AMI BACK EVEN IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO...



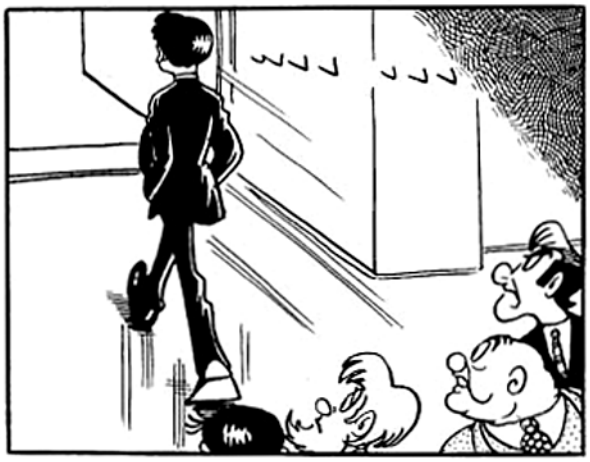
SIGN READS: SPECIAL LECTURE ON THE F-RAY GUN AND INVISIBILITY.

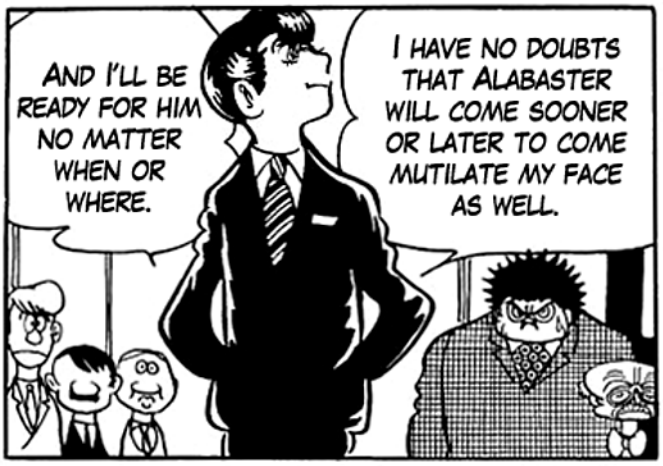

CERTAIN CHANGES IN AN ORGANISM HAPPENS ON THE LEVEL OF INHERITABLE GENETIC ELEMENTS, WHICH POTENTIALLY ALLOWS FOR DISSIMILAR OFFSPRING TO BE BORN.

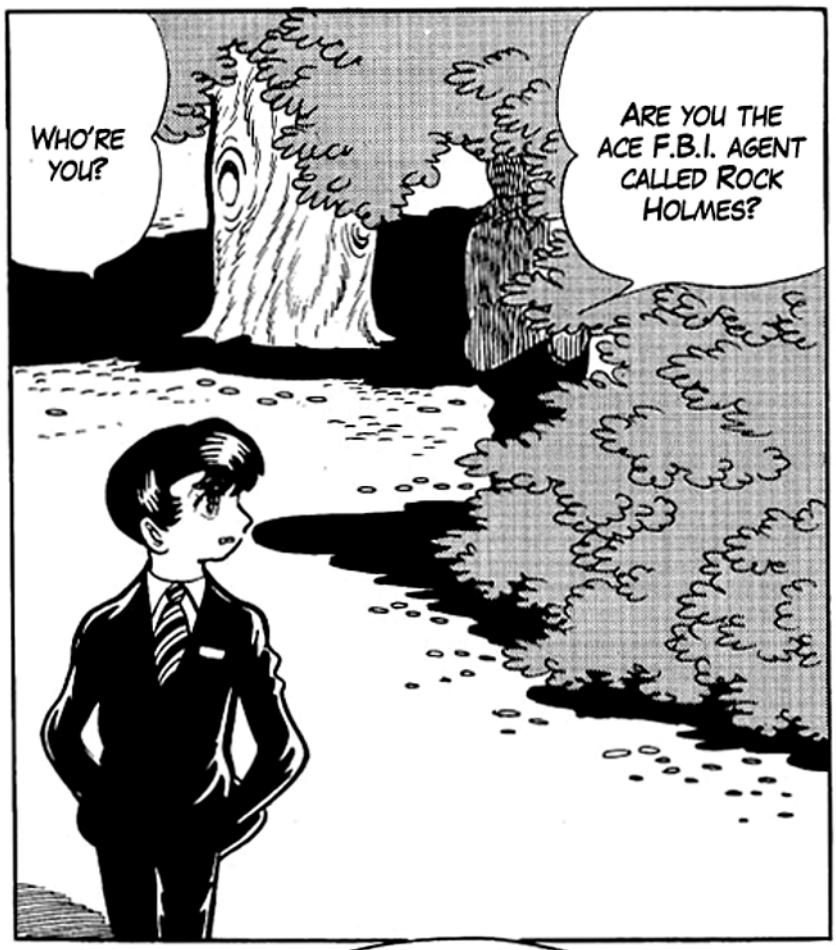

THE CHROMOSOMES CARRY WITHIN IT COUNTLESS OF GENES, AND IF ONE OR MORE WERE TO UNDERGO MUTATION...
THIS IS A PICTURE OF THE CHROMOSOMES, WHICH IS LOCATED INSIDE THE NUCLEUS OF A CELL.
MNN.
THE TWO MICE HERE IN THIS SLIDE IS ONE SUCH EXAMPLE OF THAT.
WILL CONSEQUENTLY BE DISSIMILAR TO ITS PROGENITOR.
THEN THE OFFSPRING WHO INHERITS THE MUTATED GENES,
ZZZ...
HOWEVER!
A STATE NORMALLY REFERRED TO AS INVISIBILITY.
ACCORDING TO DR. F, HIS F-RAY IS CAPABLE OF CAUSING INTENSE CHANGES IN THE CELL TO ALLOW LIGHT TO PASS THROUGH IT,
ZZZ...
NOW THEN,

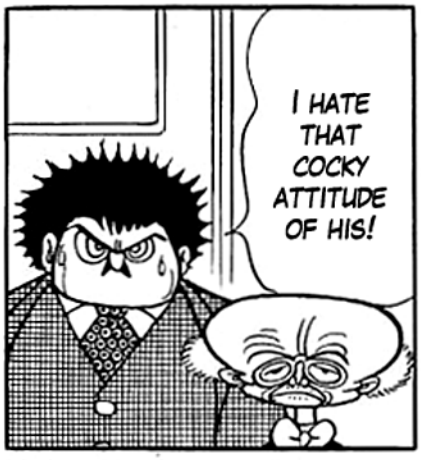
It is quite likely that its offspring will inherit the parent's wildly mutated genes
More-over,
Such intense changes can also cause the release of harmful toxins and greatly endanger the host's life!
Snore...
In any case-
So you see, the ray-gun in Alabaster's possession is quite a terrifying weapon.
If you must take a nap, I suggest you do so in another room since I'm in the middle of my lecture!
Yes, pro-fessor?
Ahem!
Quite conve-nient, wouldn't you agree?
This'll also allow me to edit out some of your pauses and pointless musings.
No need to be offended. I'm still keeping track of your every word through the help of this tape recorder.

HAHAHA! MY APOLOGIES...
JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
IN ANY CASE, I'D GIVE YOUR LECTURE A 4 OUT OF 10, PROFESSOR.
YOU SHOULD BE THANKFUL THAT IT WAS JUST ME THIS TIME. JUST IMAGINE WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED HAD ONE OF ALABASTER'S MEN DISGUISED HIMSELF AND SNUCK INSIDE.
ROCK HOLMES!
ALABASTER AND HIS GANG ARE WREAKING HAVOC EVEN AS WE SPEAK RIGHT NOW!
MR. HOLMES, THIS IS NO TIME FOR YOUR SHENANIGANS.
HA HA HA.
THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER! WE MUST COME UP WITH A WAY TO STOP THAT F-RAY GUN OF HIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
YES, YES, "TO MUTILATE ALL THAT WHICH IS BEAUTIFUL," OR SO HE SAYS... HAHA, HOW RIDICULOUS.

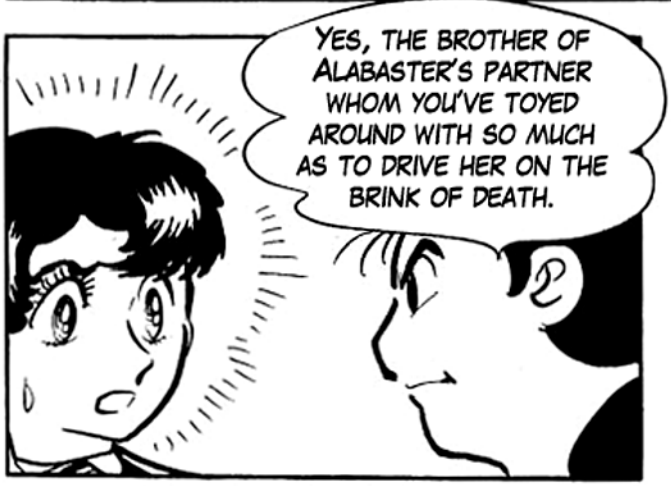


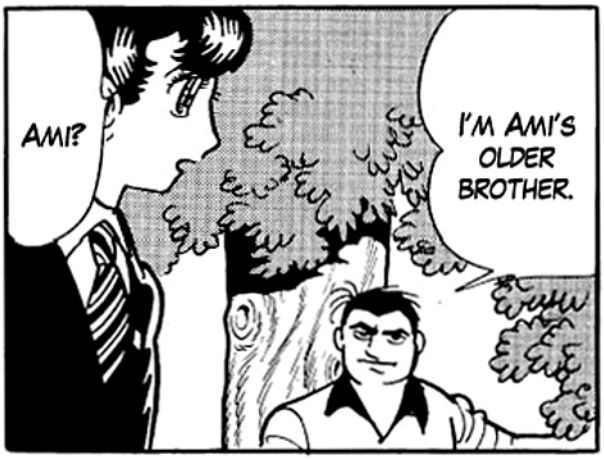

I HAVE NO DOUBTS THAT ALABASTER WILL COME SOONER OR LATER TO COME MUTILATE MY FACE AS WELL.
AND I'LL BE READY FOR HIM NO MATTER WHEN OR WHERE.


ARE YOU THE ACE F.B.I. AGENT CALLED ROCK HOLMES?
WHO'RE YOU?

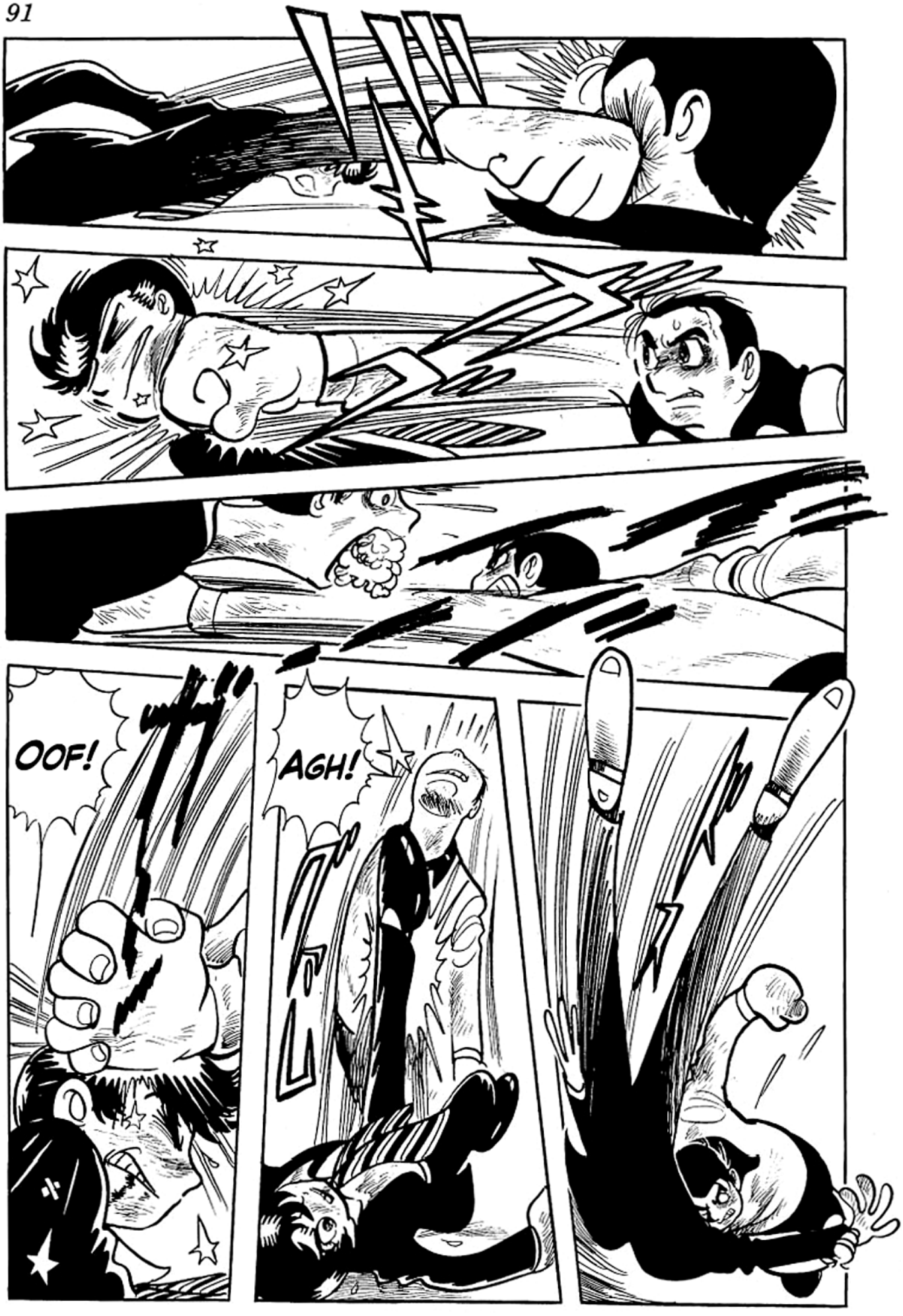

I HATE THAT COCKY ATTITUDE OF HIS!

ROCK!


YES, THE BROTHER OF ALABASTER'S PARTNER WHOM YOU'VE TOYED AROUND WITH SO MUCH AS TO DRIVE HER ON THE BRINK OF DEATH.

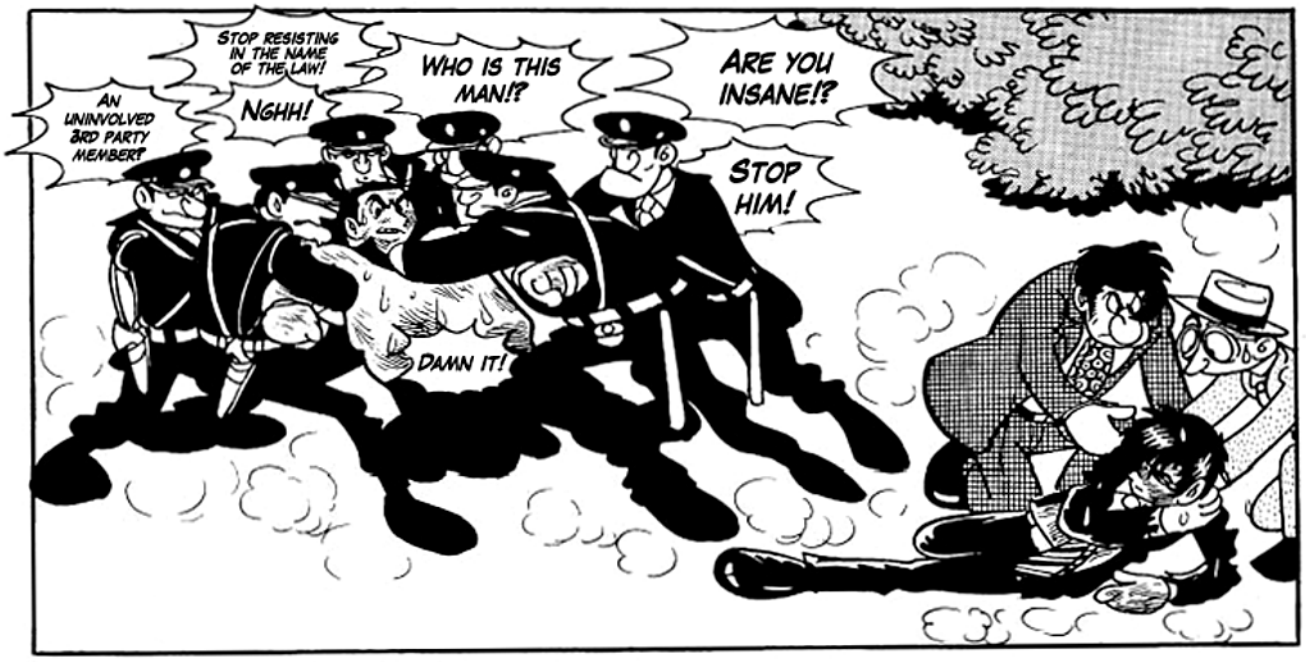

I'M AMI'S OLDER BROTHER.
AMI?

I HOPE YOU'RE PREPARED.
I CAME HERE TO GIVE YOU MY THANKS FOR WHAT YOU DID TO AMI.
OH NOTHING. I'M MERELY NOTING THE FACT, THAT'S ALL.
SO WHAT IF I'M NOT?
YOU DON'T APPEAR TO BE ONE OF ALABASTER'S HENCHMEN...
OH, AND WHAT'LL THAT BE?
.....


OOF!
AGH!

HOW DARE YOU MISTREAT AMI LIKE THAT! YOU'RE NO HUMAN... YOU'RE A BRUTISH BEAST!
AND I'LL TREAT YOU THE WAY A BEAST OUGHT TO BE TREATED AS!
OOF!

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT

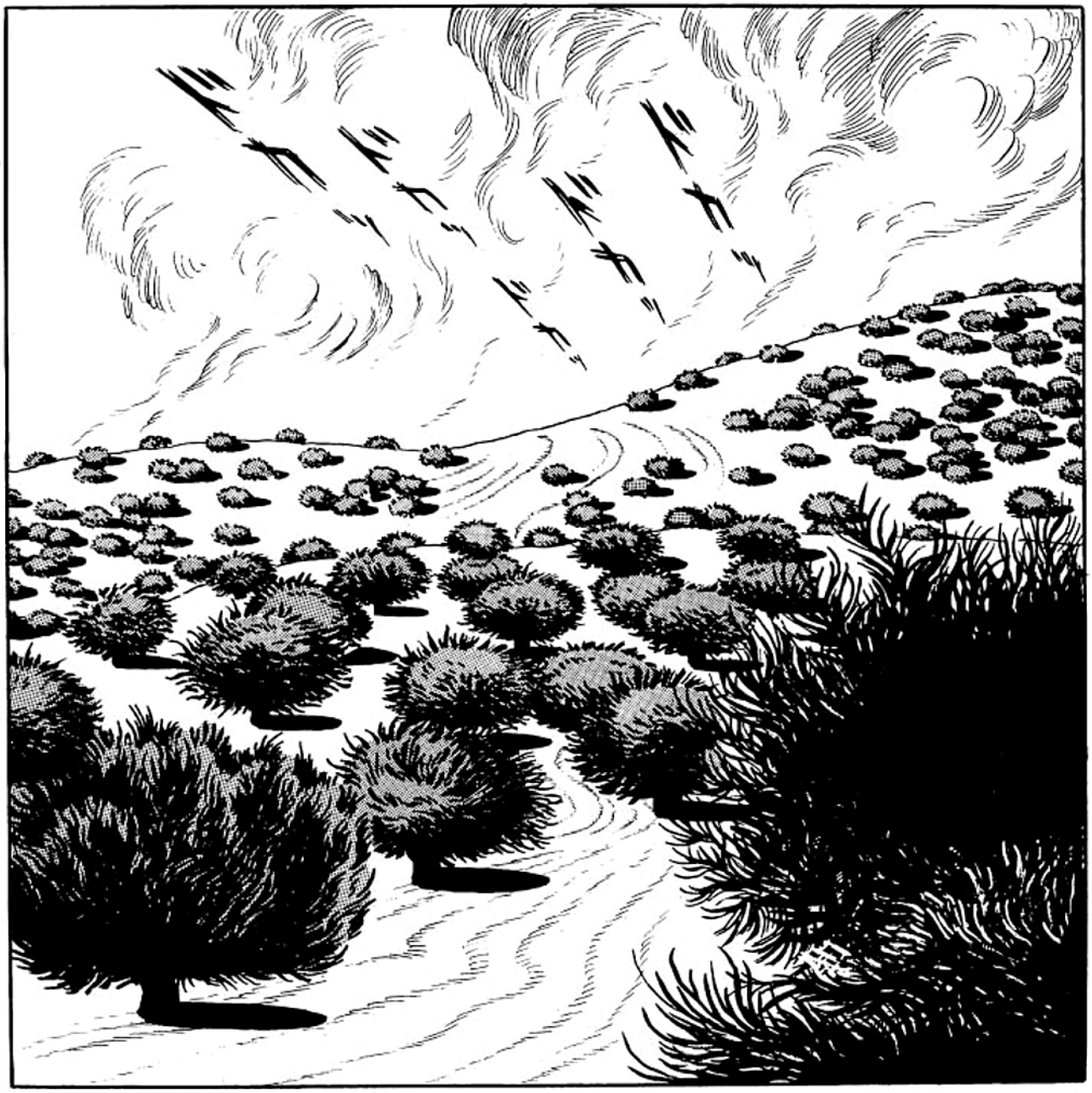

AN UNINVOLVED 3RD PARTY MEMBER?
STOP RESISTING IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!
NGHH!
WHO IS THIS MAN!?
ARE YOU INSANE!?
STOP HIM!
DAMN IT!

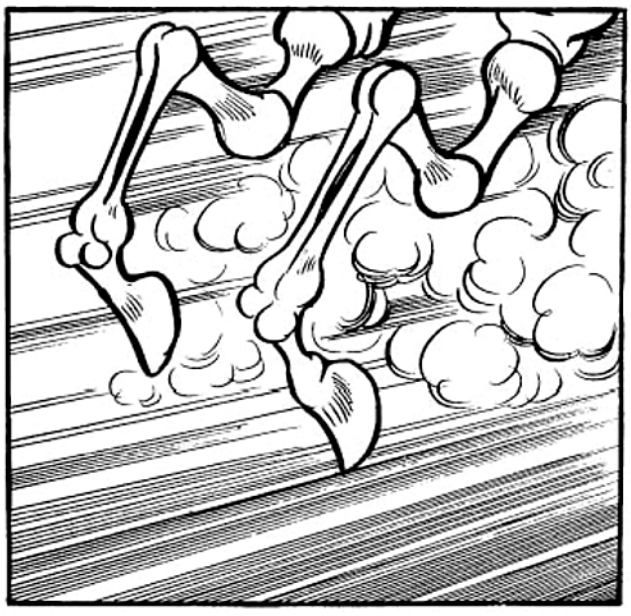
AND I'LL TELL THE WHOLE WORLD ABOUT YOUR SINS!
I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU DO!

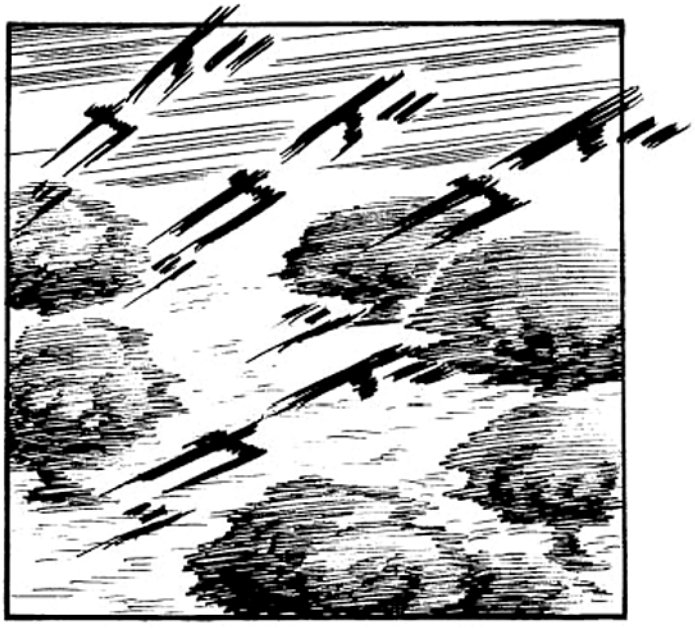
I'LL PERSONALLY SEE TO IT THAT YOUR LITTLE SISTER GETS THE NOOSE...

HAHAHA... JUST STAND BACK AND WATCH WHAT HAPPENS...

CHAPTER 8: PILGRIMAGE TO MURDER







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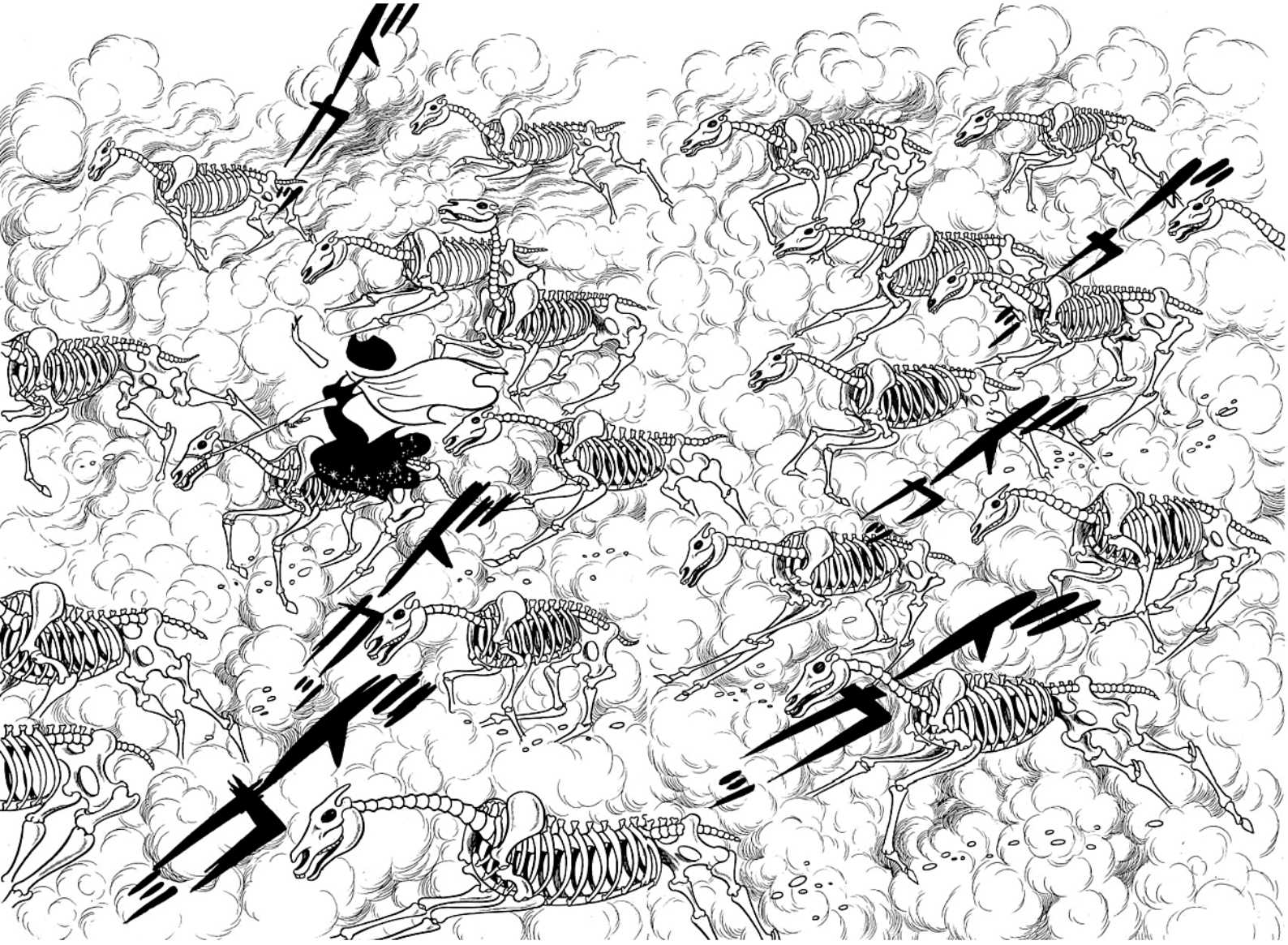
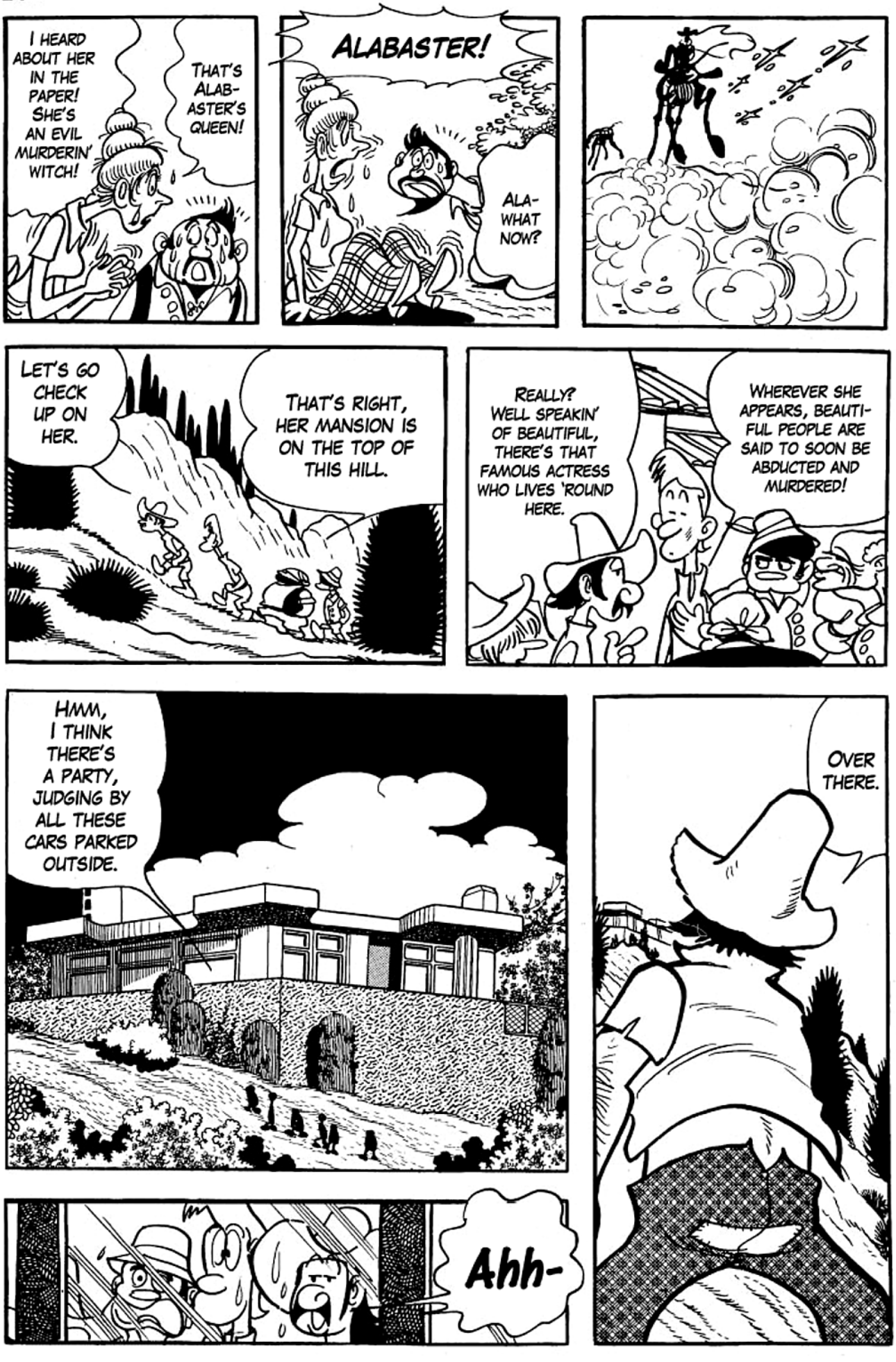
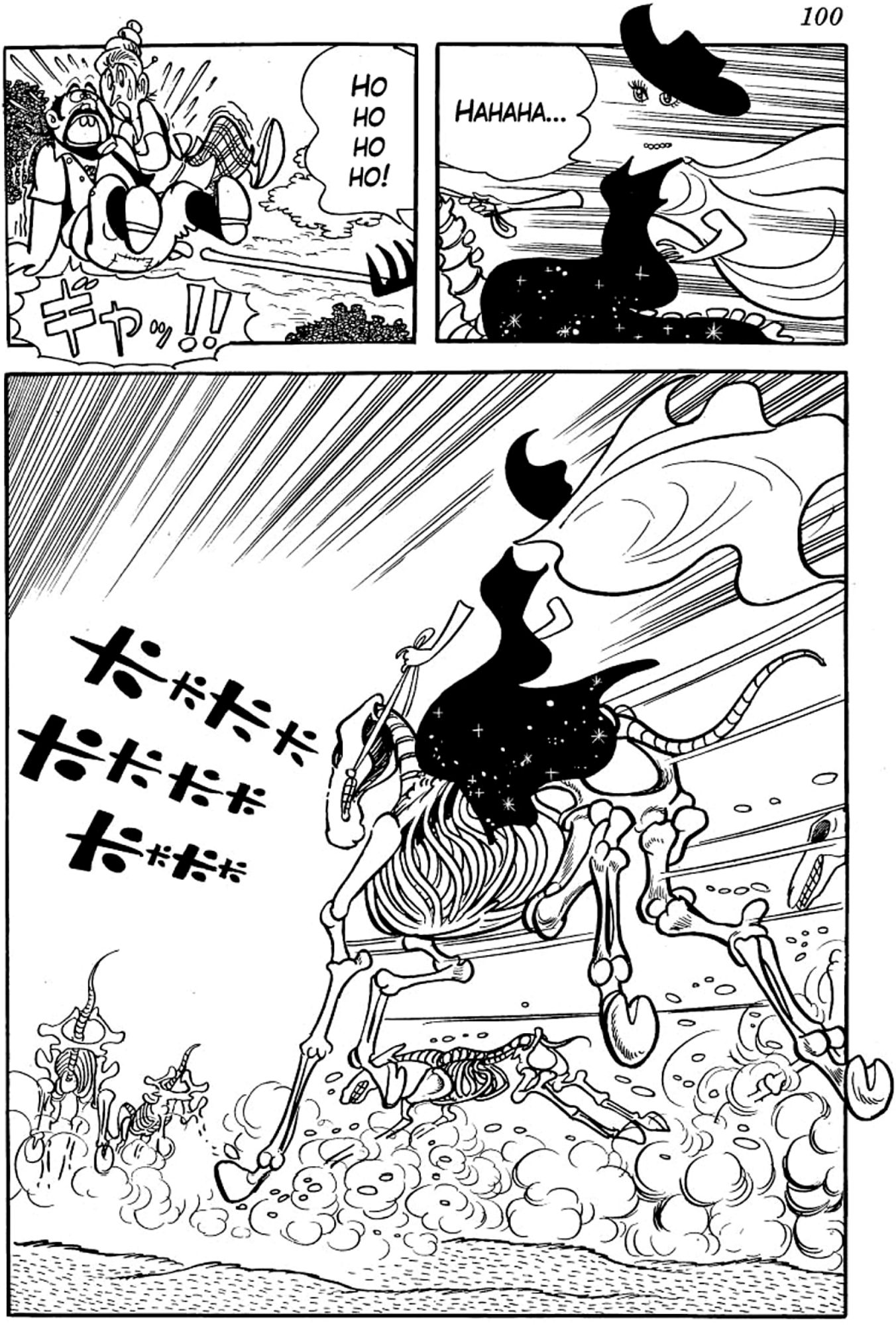
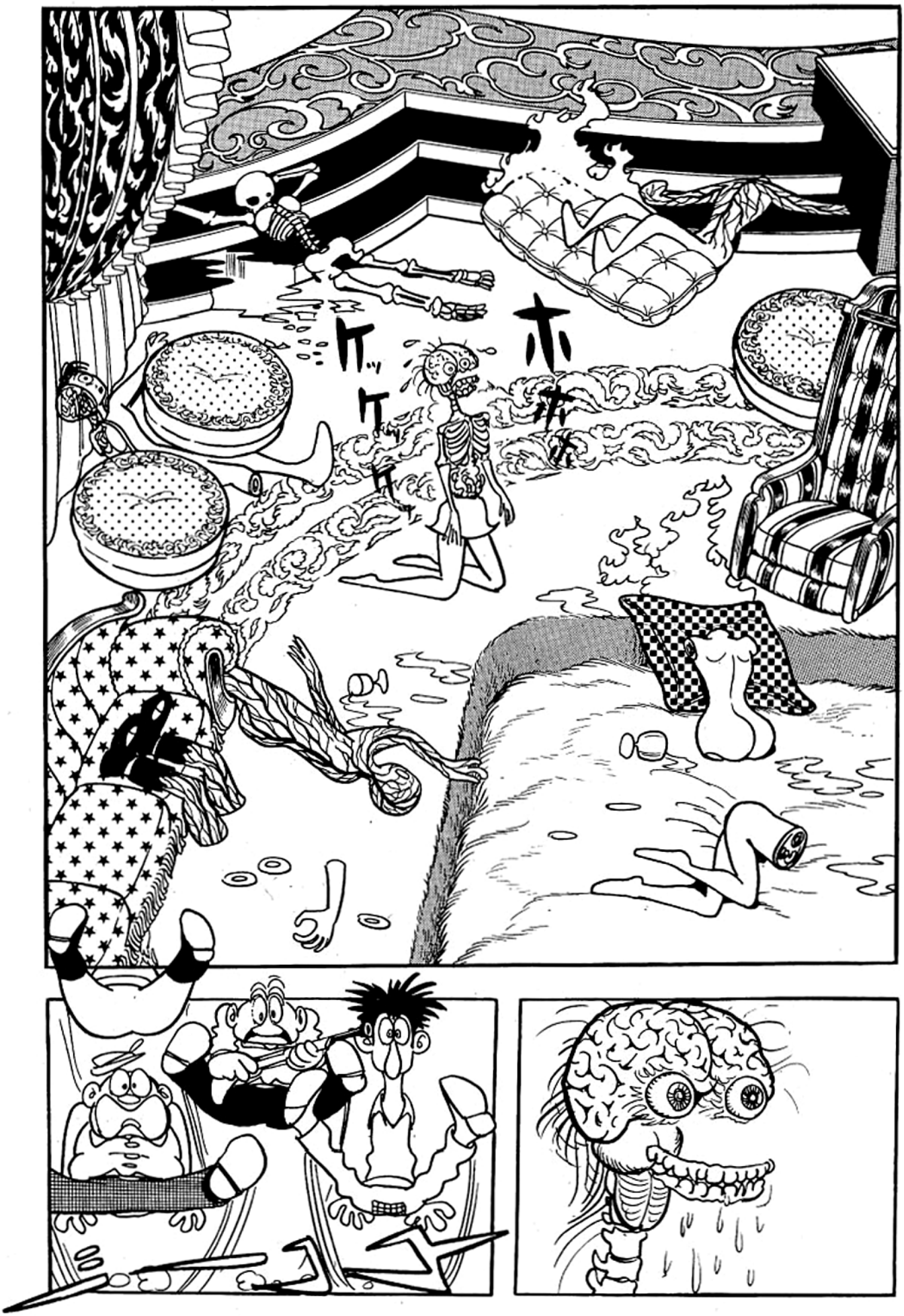
AGHHHH!
I-IT'S A DEMON!
L-L-LOOK AT THAT!

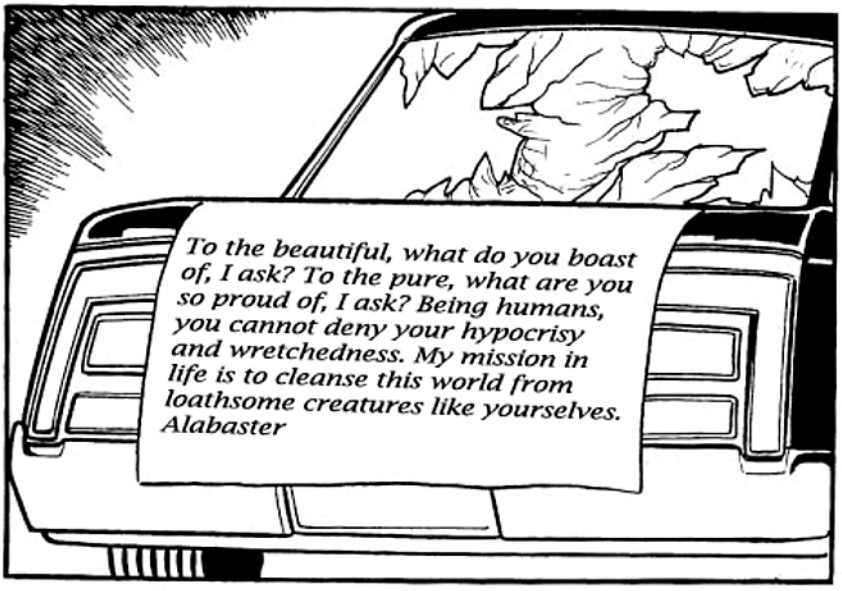


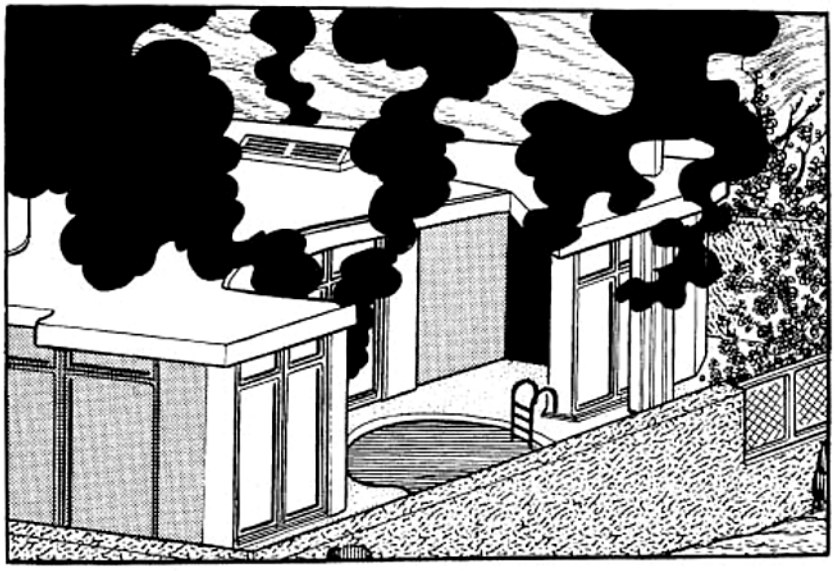

I HEARD ABOUT HER IN THE PAPER! SHE'S AN EVIL MURDERIN' WITCH!
THAT'S ALAB-ASTER'S QUEEN!
ALABASTER!
ALA-WHAT NOW?
LET'S GO CHECK UP ON HER.
THAT'S RIGHT, HER MANSION IS ON THE TOP OF THIS HILL.
REALLY? WELL SPEAKIN' OF BEAUTIFUL, THERE'S THAT FAMOUS ACTRESS WHO LIVES 'ROUND HERE.
WHEREVER SHE APPEARS, BEAUTI-FUL PEOPLE ARE SAID TO SOON BE ABDUCTED AND MURDERED!
HMM, I THINK THERE'S A PARTY, JUDGING BY ALL THESE CARS PARKED OUTSIDE.
OVER THERE.
Ahh-

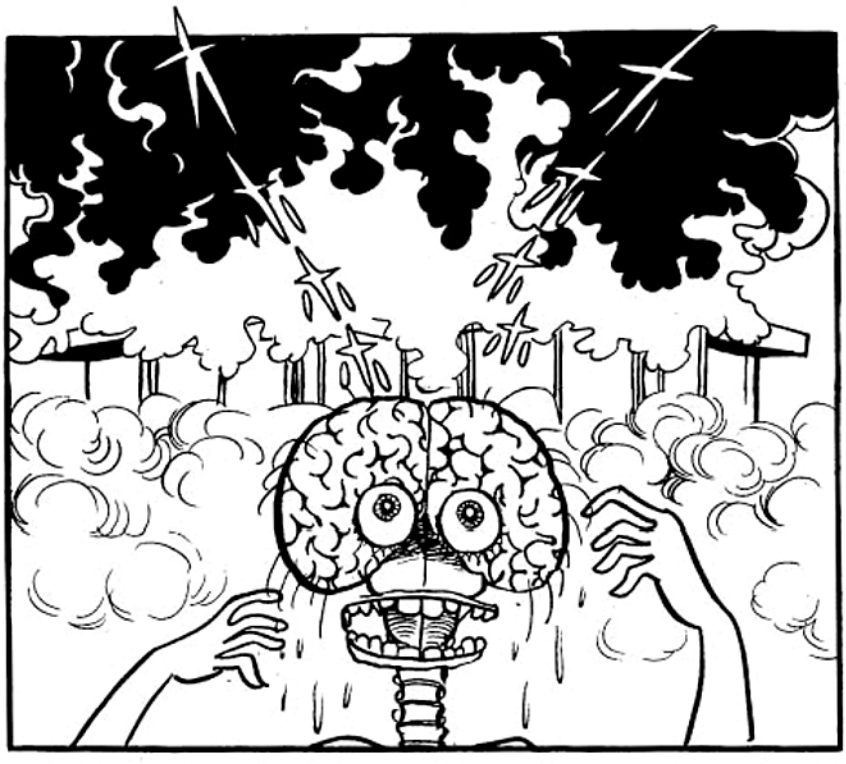

HO HO HO HO!
ギャッ!!
HAHAHA...
ドドド

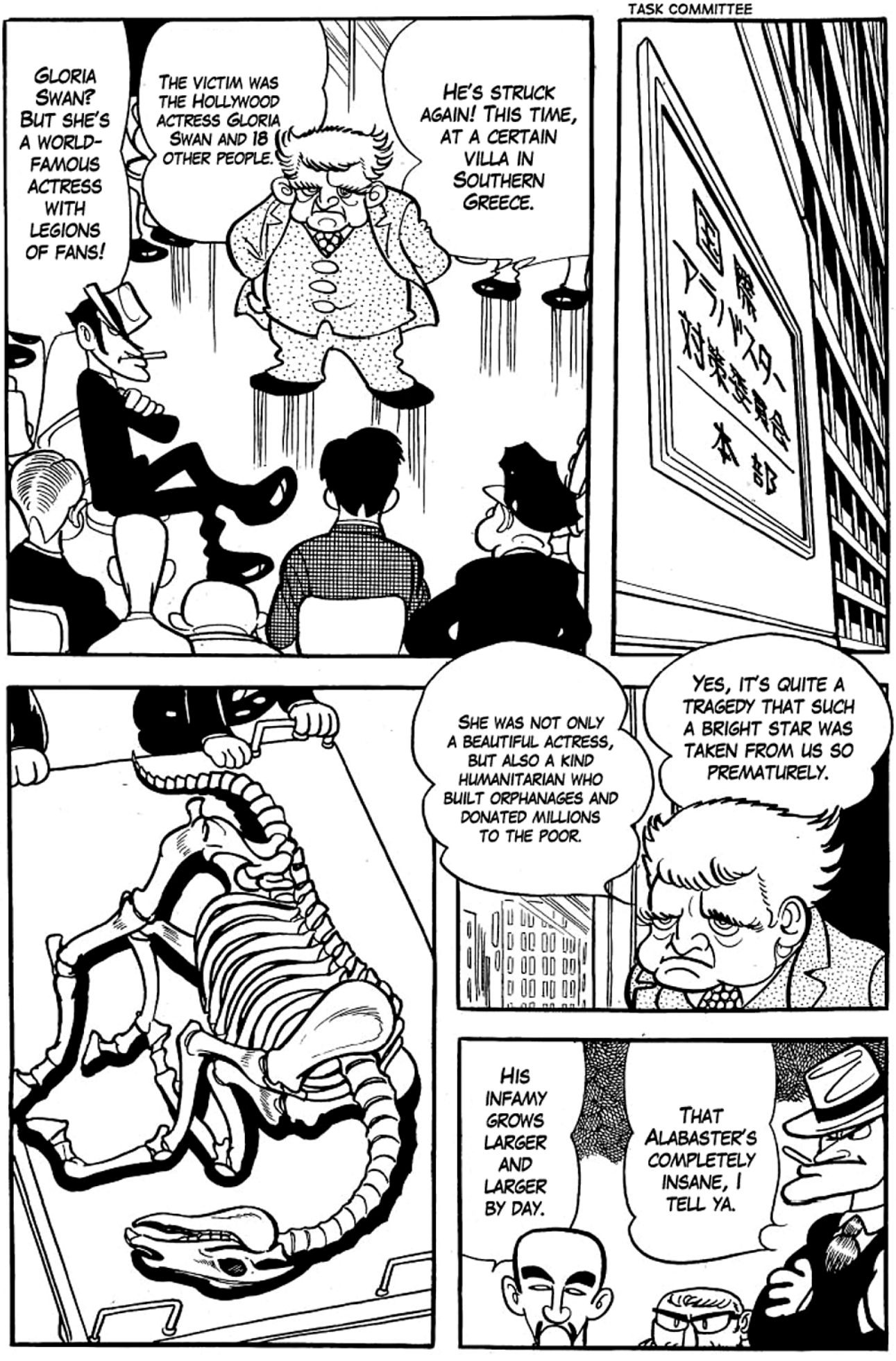


MONSTER!

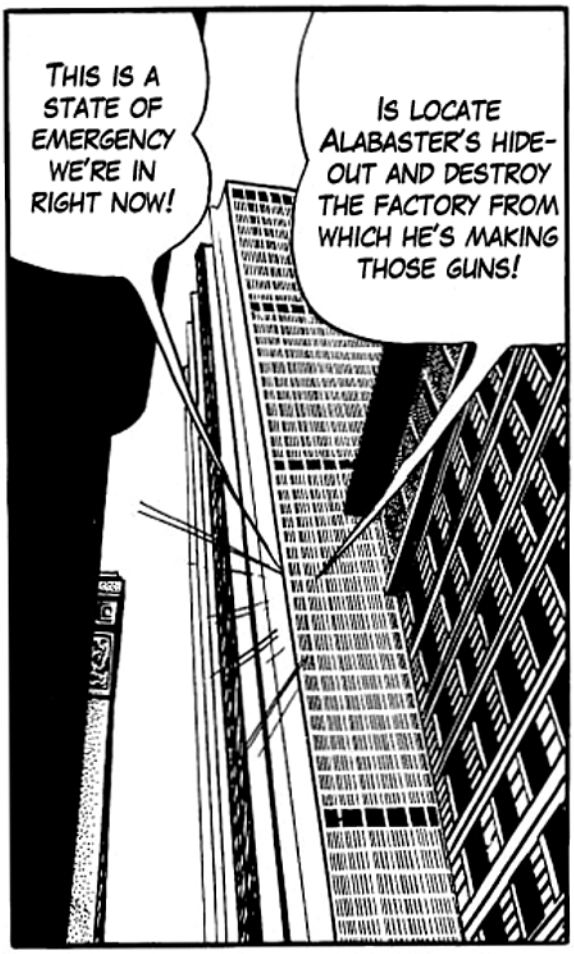

To the beautiful, what do you boast of, I ask? To the pure, what are you so proud of, I ask? Being humans, you cannot deny your hypocrisy and wretchedness. My mission in life is to cleanse this world from loathsome creatures like yourselves.
Alabaster



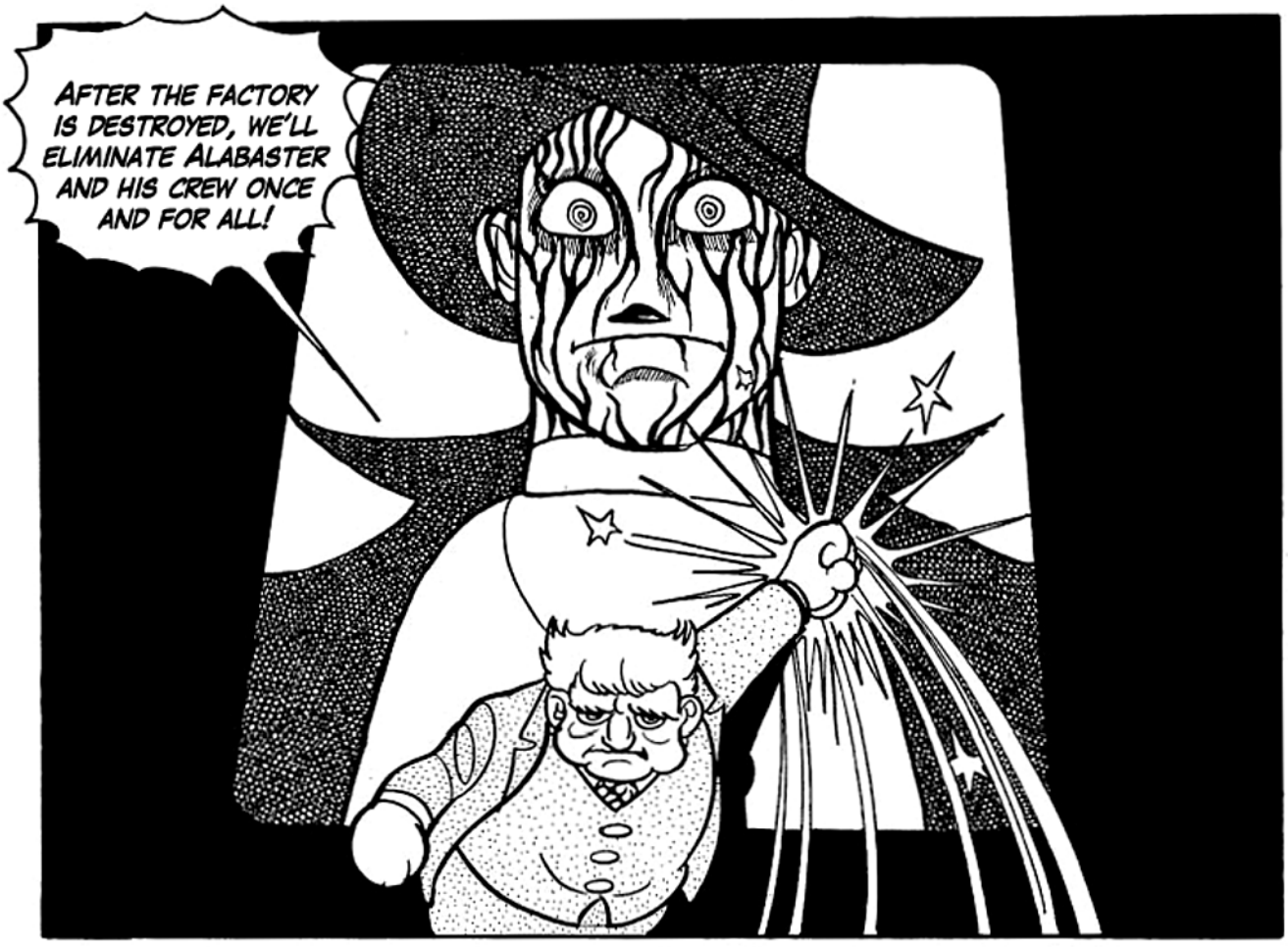


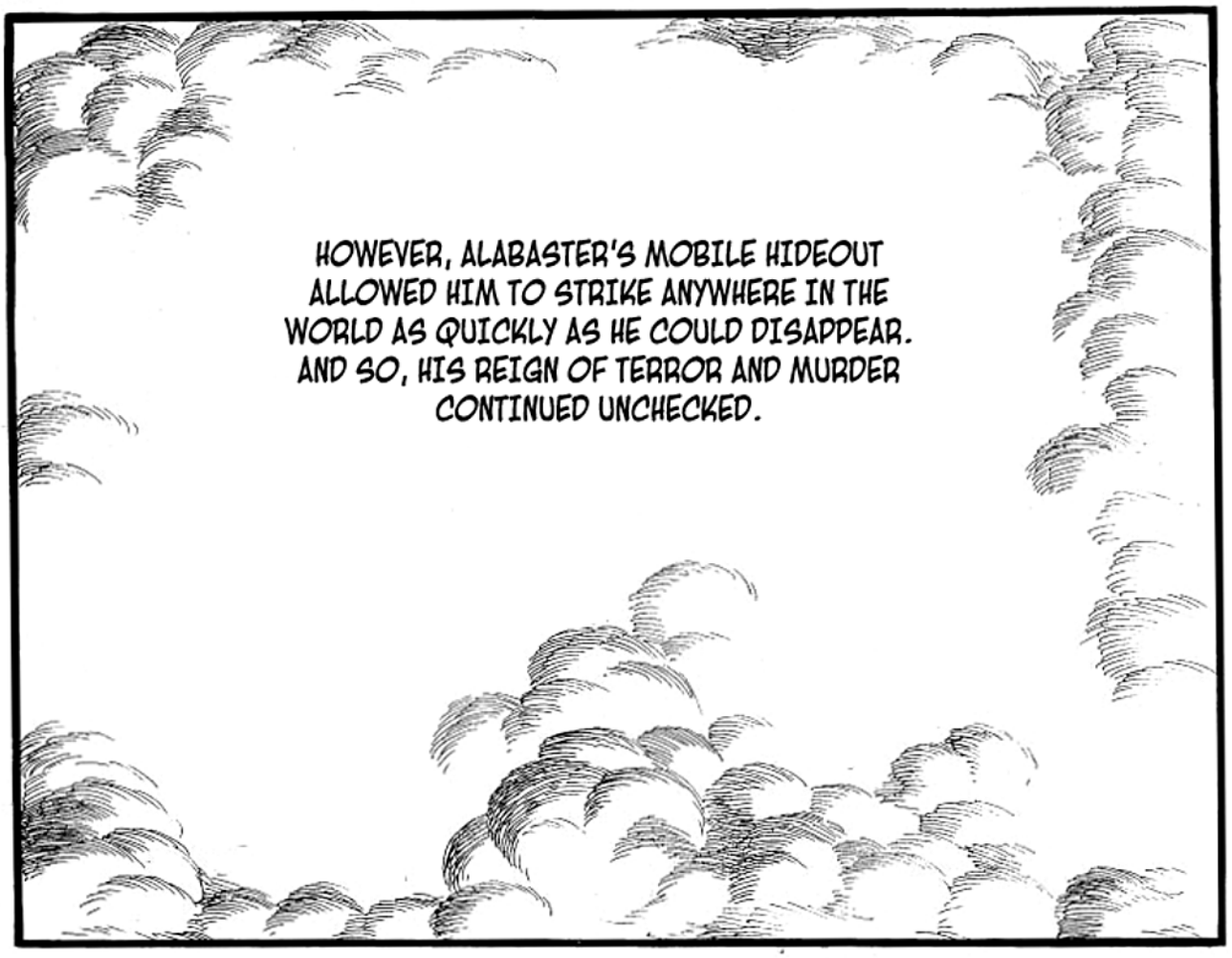

HE'S STRUCK AGAIN! THIS TIME, AT A CERTAIN VILLA IN SOUTHERN GREECE.
THE VICTIM WAS THE HOLLYWOOD ACTRESS GLORIA SWAN AND 18 OTHER PEOPLE.
GLORIA SWAN? BUT SHE'S A WORLD-FAMOUS ACTRESS WITH LEGIONS OF FANS!
SIGN READS: ALABASTER APPREHENSION TASK COMMITTEE
本部
YES, IT'S QUITE A TRAGEDY THAT SUCH A BRIGHT STAR WAS TAKEN FROM US SO PREMATURELY.
SHE WAS NOT ONLY A BEAUTIFUL ACTRESS, BUT ALSO A KIND HUMANITARIAN WHO BUILT ORPHANAGES AND DONATED MILLIONS TO THE POOR.
THAT ALABASTER'S COMPLETELY INSANE, I TELL YA.
HIS INFAMY GROWS LARGER AND LARGER BY DAY.

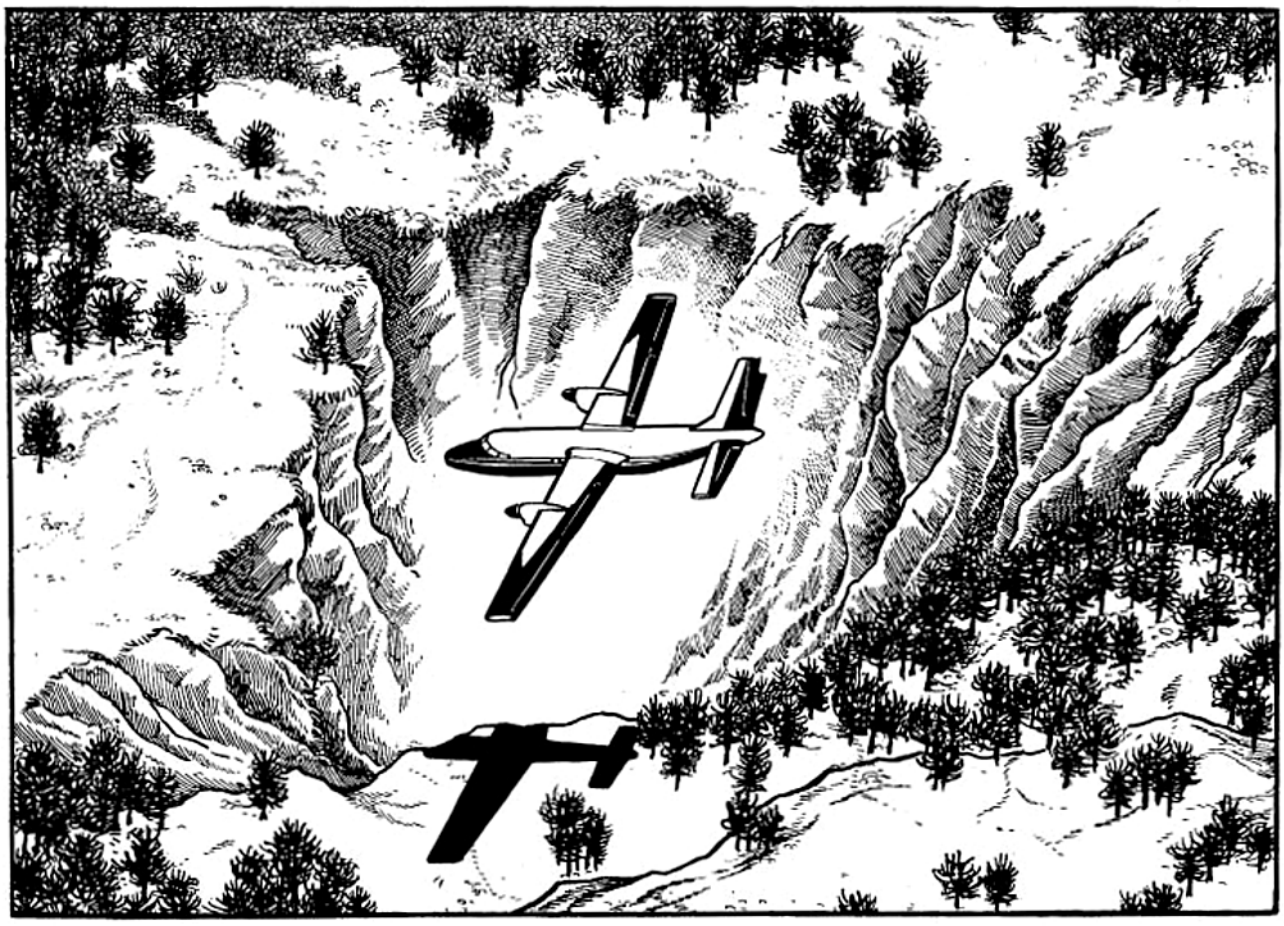
APPEARS SO.
IS THIS A HORSE?
WHA!
A HALF-INVISIBLE HORSE...
AMAZING. IT LOOKS LIKE JUST A SKELETON BUT I CAN CLEARLY FEEL ITS SKIN.
THE OTHER VICTIMS WERE FOUND IN A STATE SIMILAR TO THIS HORSE.
IT'S THE WORK OF THAT RAY-GUN...
WE SHOULD FIRST PRIORITIZE ON TAKING THAT RAY-GUN OF HIS IF WE WANT TO STOP ALABASTER'S PLANS.
TAKE IT AWAY FOR AUTOPSY.
DOES THAT MEAN HE'S FIGURED OUT A WAY TO MASS PRODUCE THE RAY GUNS?
OTHERWISE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN SOME OF ALABASTER'S RECENT ATTACKS WHICH OCCURRED IN DIFFERENT PLACES AT THE SAME TIME.
AT THE VERY LEAST, WE MUST ASSUME 2 GUNS.
ACCORDING TO OUR INTEL, THERE SEEMS TO BE MORE THAN ONE RAY-GUN.


THIS IS A STATE OF EMERGENCY WE'RE IN RIGHT NOW!
IS LOCATE ALABASTER'S HIDE-OUT AND DESTROY THE FACTORY FROM WHICH HE'S MAKING THOSE GUNS!

IT WAS HARD ENOUGH TRYING TO STOP THEM WHEN THEY HAD ONLY ONE GUN BUT NOW ALL OF HIS LACKEYS HAVE RAY GUNS TOO!?
THEN WE'VE GOT A REAL CRISIS ON OUR HANDS!
YES, THAT'S CERTAINLY A POSSIBILITY.
LISTEN UP! THE FIRST AND MOST IMPOR-TANT THING WE MUST DO...

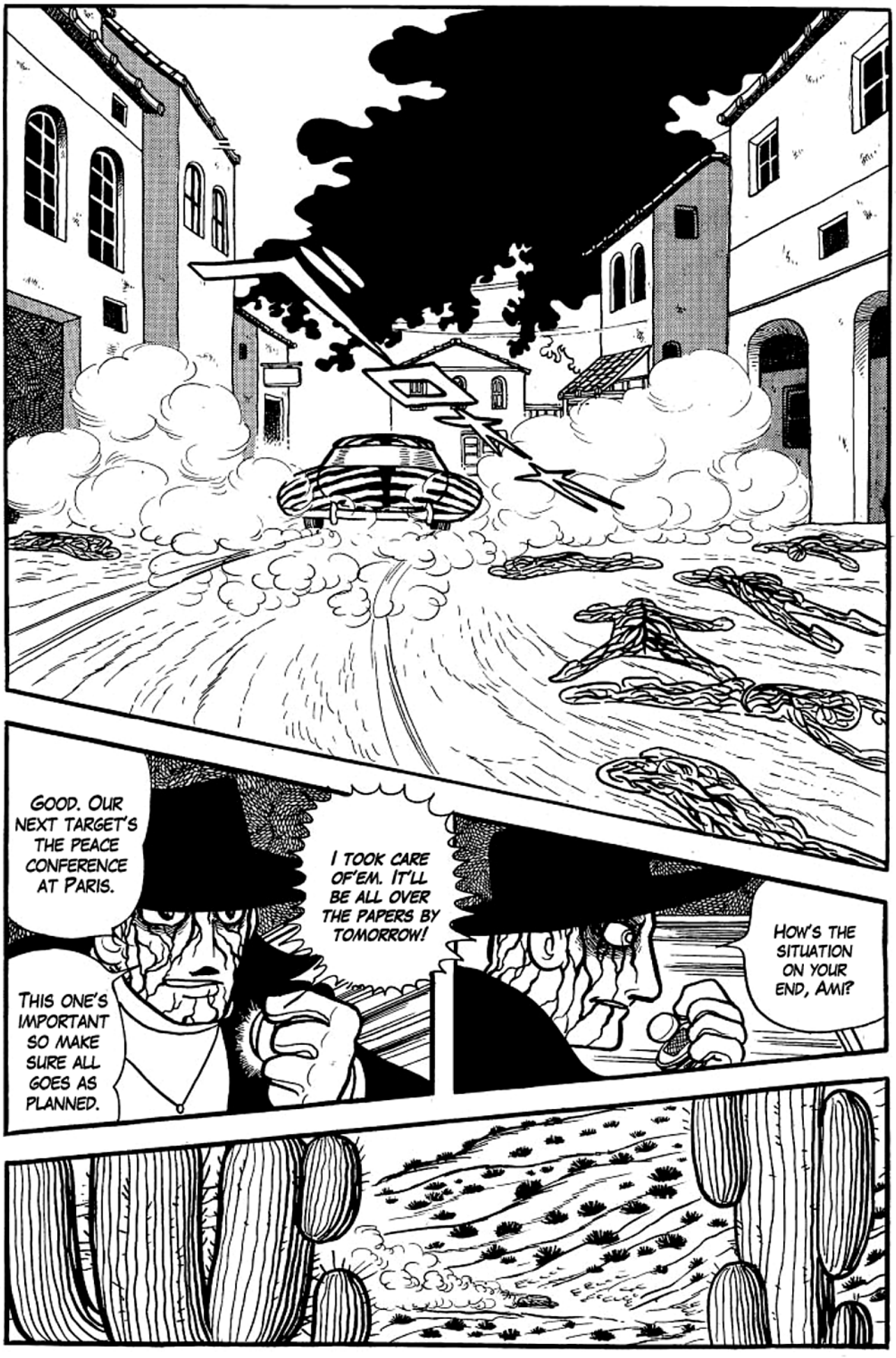

AFTER THE FACTORY IS DESTROYED, WE'LL ELIMINATE ALABASTER AND HIS CREW ONCE AND FOR ALL!

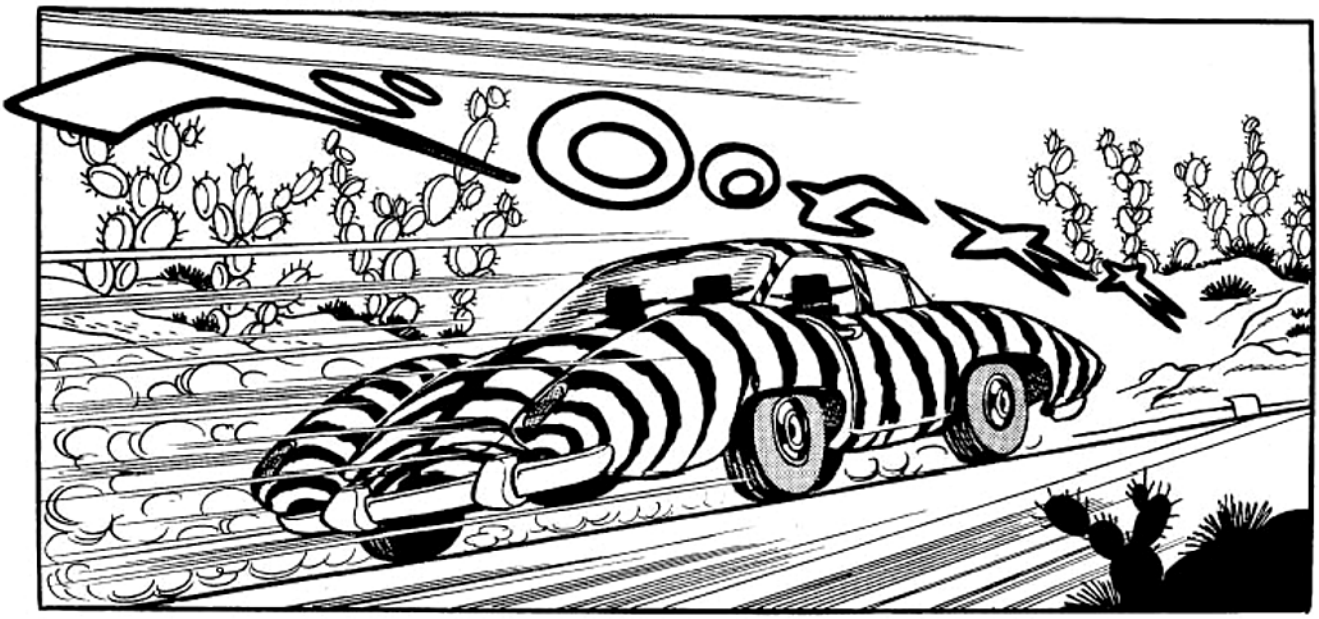

HOWEVER, ALABASTER'S MOBILE HIDEOUT ALLOWED HIM TO STRIKE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD AS QUICKLY AS HE COULD DISAPPEAR. AND SO, HIS REIGN OF TERROR AND MURDER CONTINUED UNCHECKED.



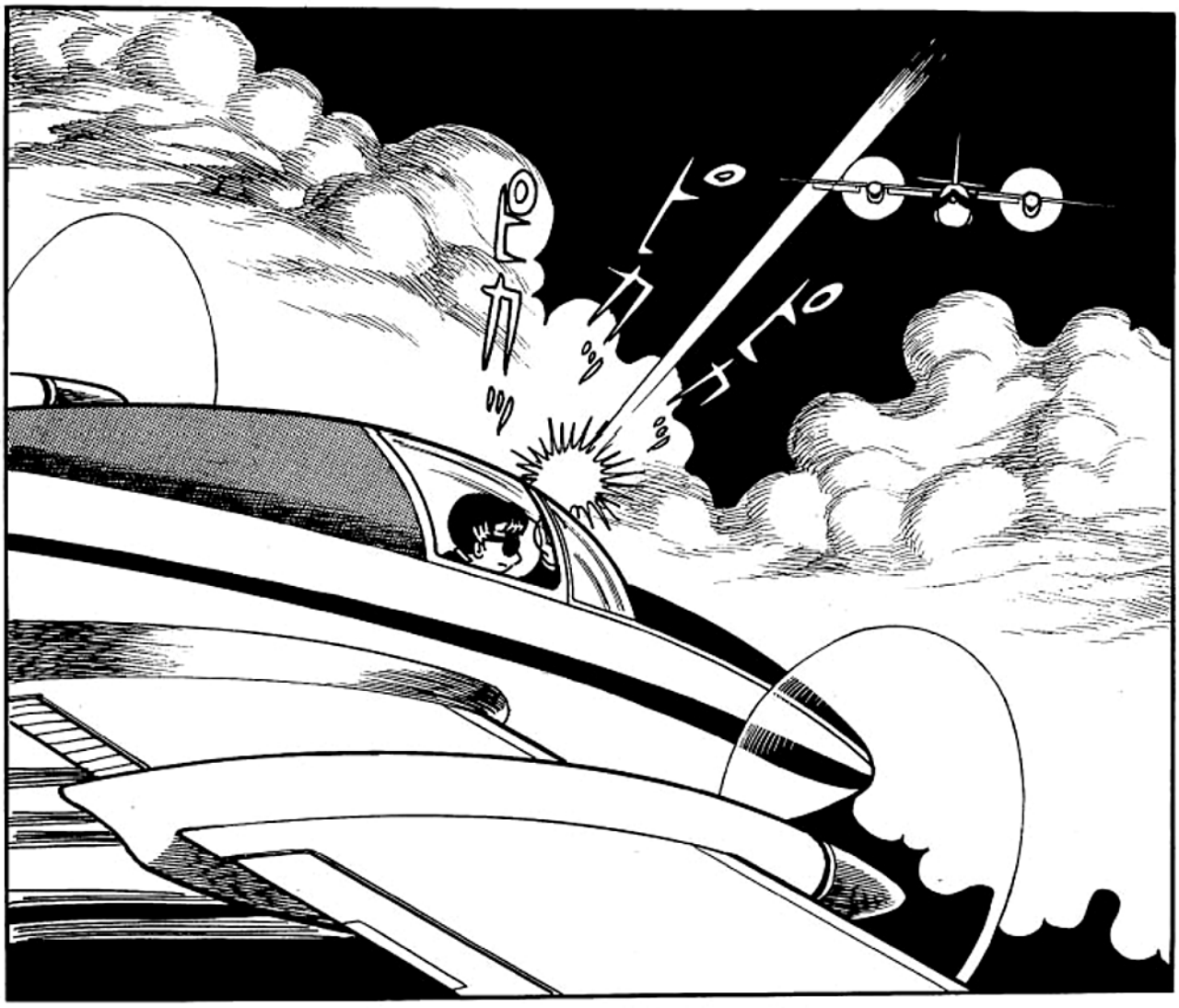
WHAT HAVE WE EVER DONE TO OFFEND YOU? WE ARE BUT MEEK SHEEP WHO EARNESTLY FOLLOW THE TEACHINGS OF OUR LORD.
SOL &
VETRANO
YES, AND IT'S PRECISELY THAT MEEK AND COMPLACENT ATTITUDE I DESPISE!

AHH, A BEA-
UTIFUL BUILDING
WORTHY OF BEING
DESTROYED.
GET IN, EVERYONE.
WE'VE GOTTA FLY
TO OUR NEXT
DESTINATION.


GOOD. OUR NEXT TARGET'S THE PEACE CONFERENCE AT PARIS.
I TOOK CARE OF'EM. IT'LL BE ALL OVER THE PAPERS BY TOMORROW!
HOW'S THE SITUATION ON YOUR END, AMI?
THIS ONE'S IMPORTANT SO MAKE SURE ALL GOES AS PLANNED.



AHH!
IS IT THE POLICE?
ALABASTER, WE'VE GOT A PLANE TAILING US.
IT'S ROCK!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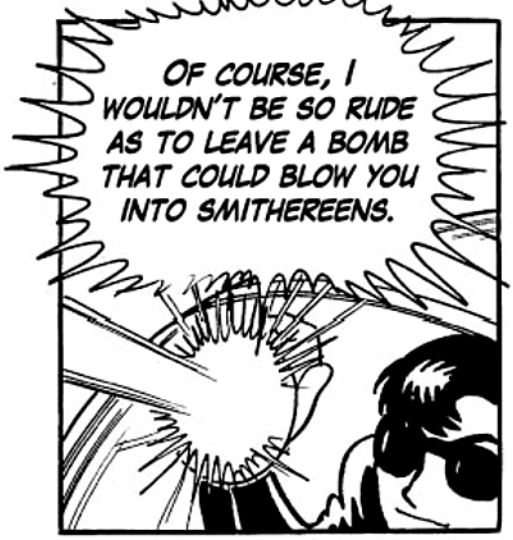
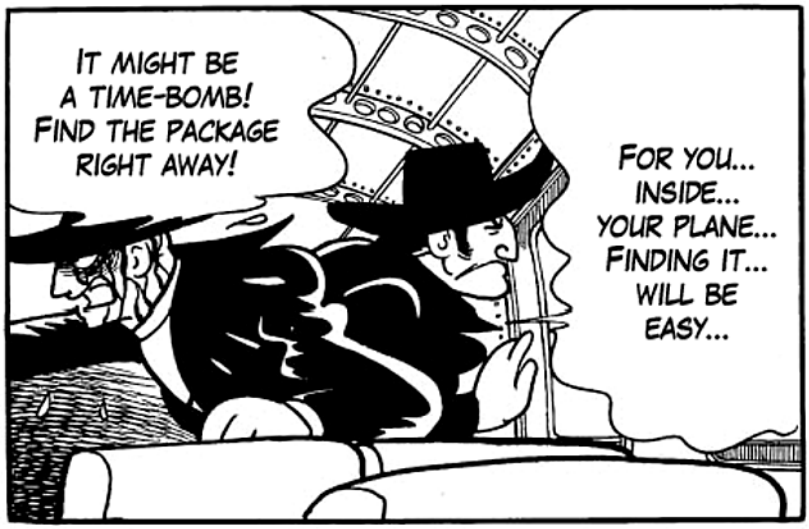
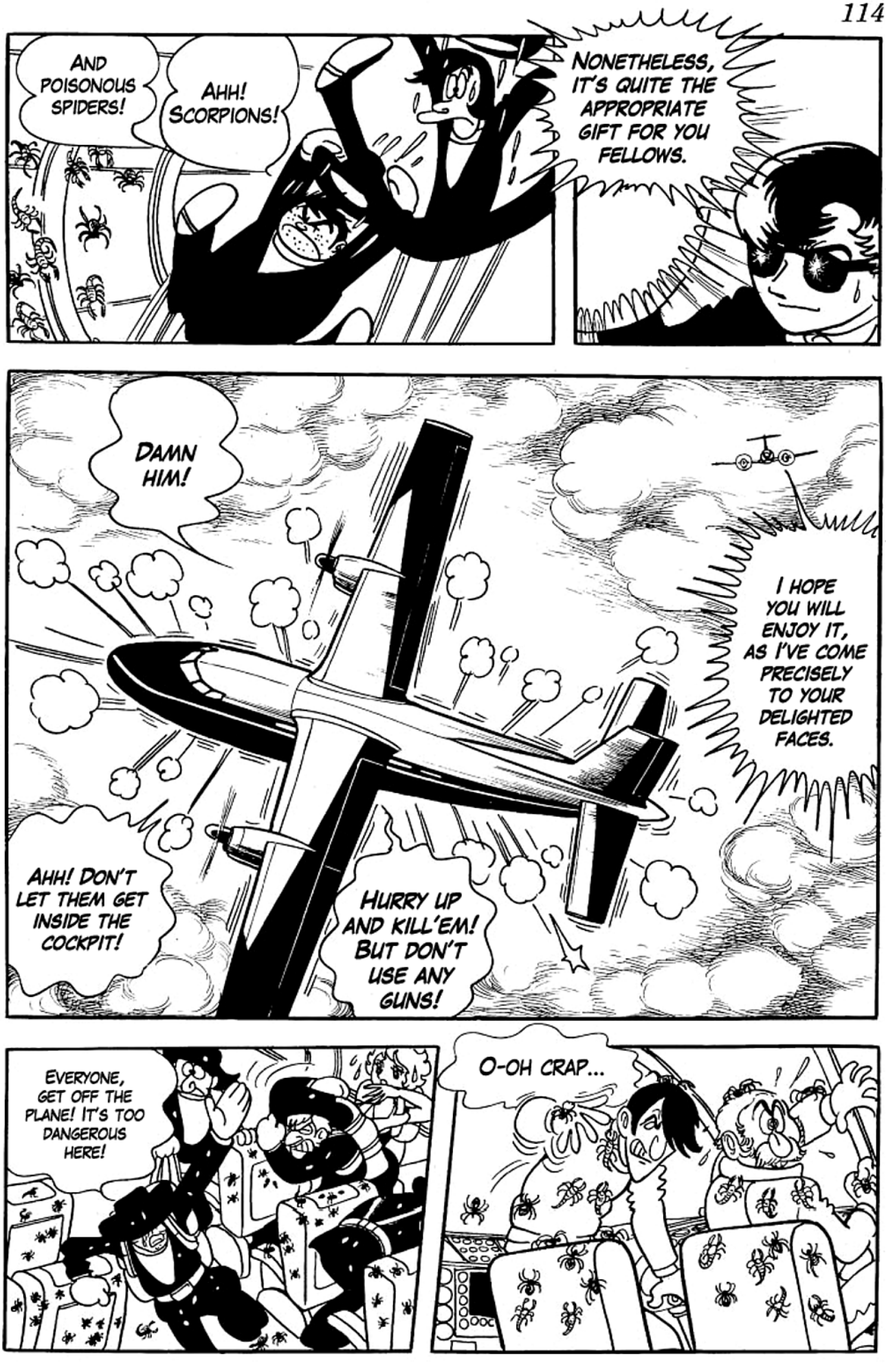
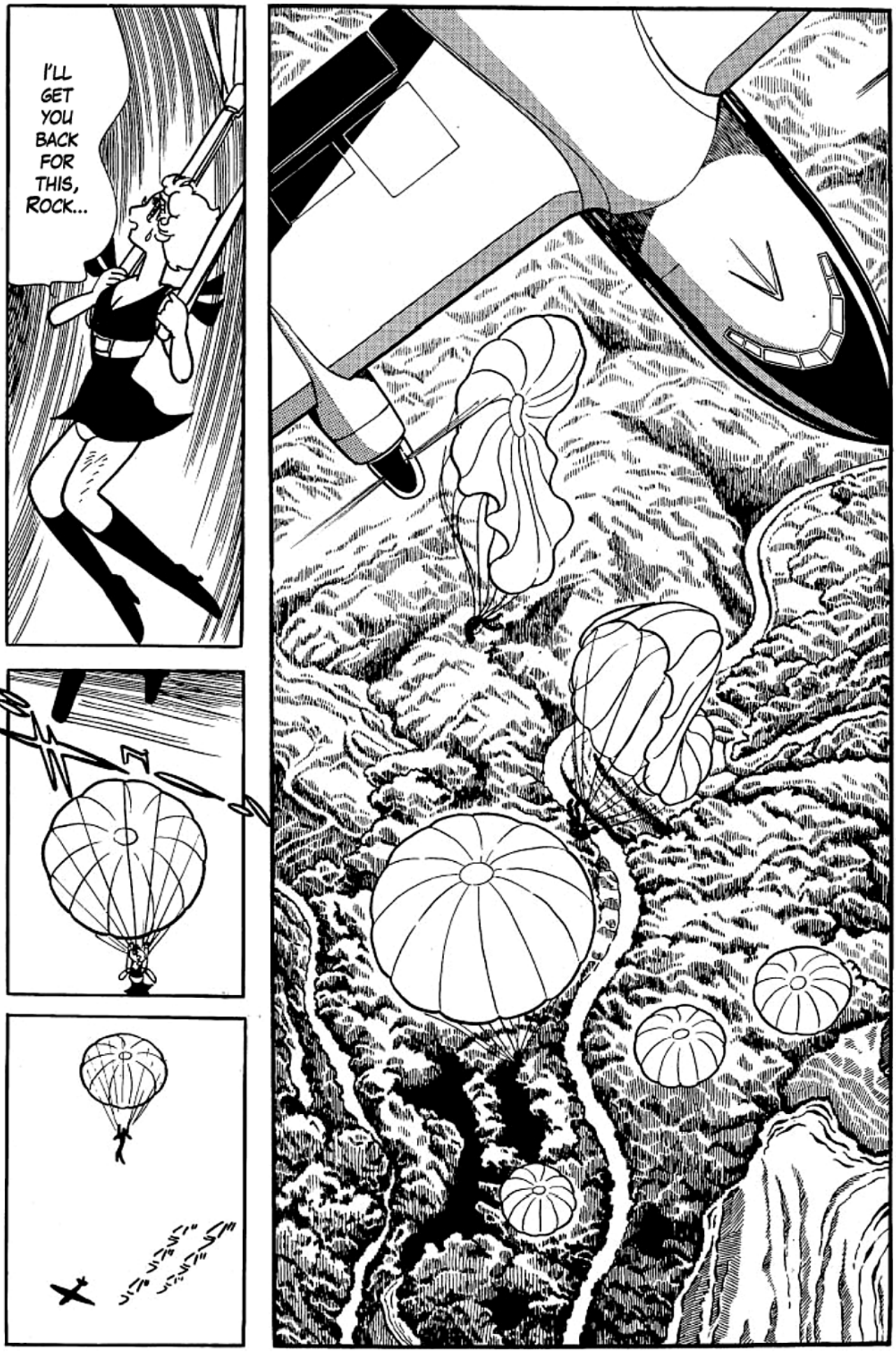
TO ALABASTER... I HAVE LEFT... A PACKAGE...

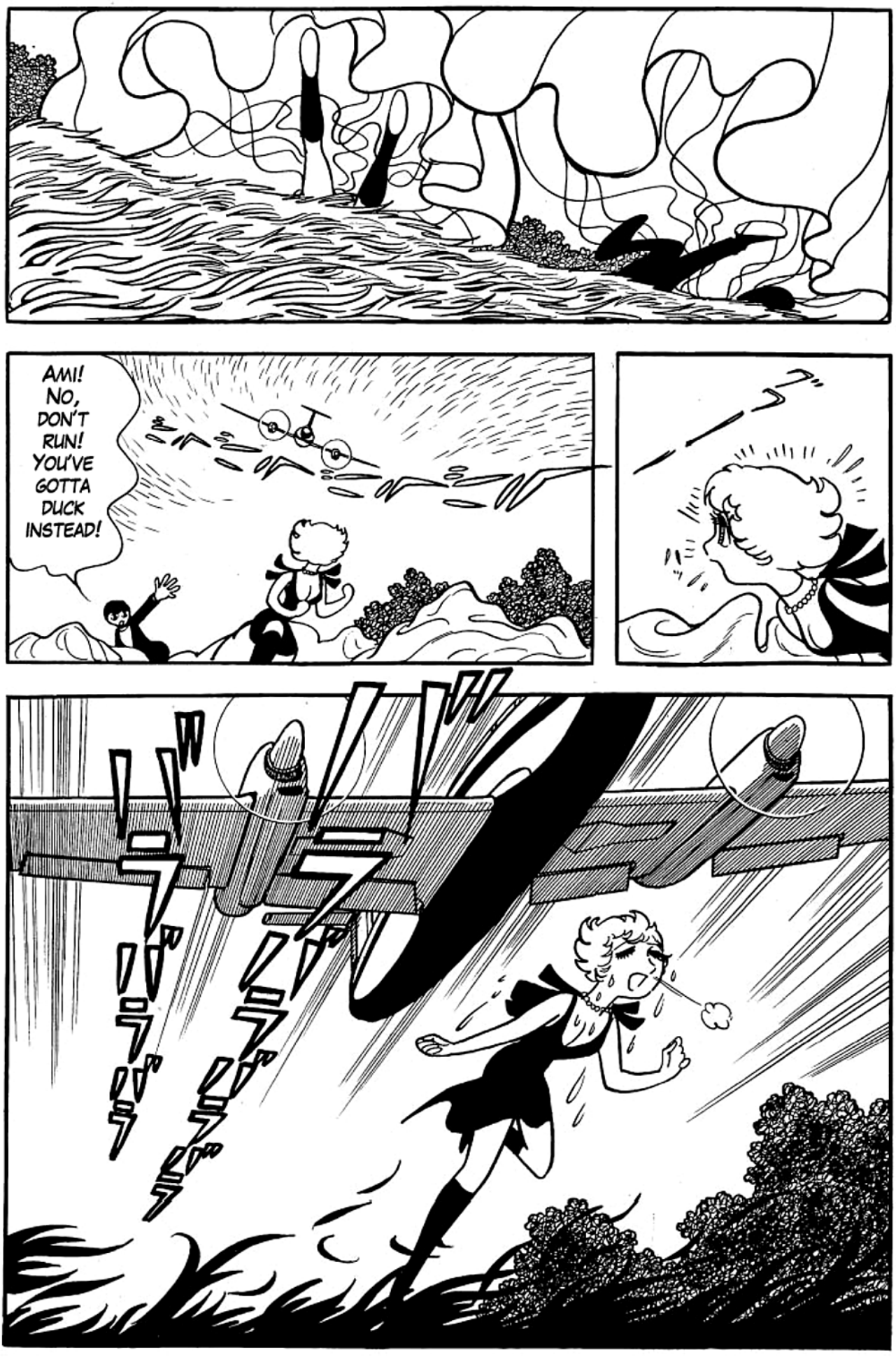
HE'S SENDING A MESSAGE THROUGH MORSE CODE.

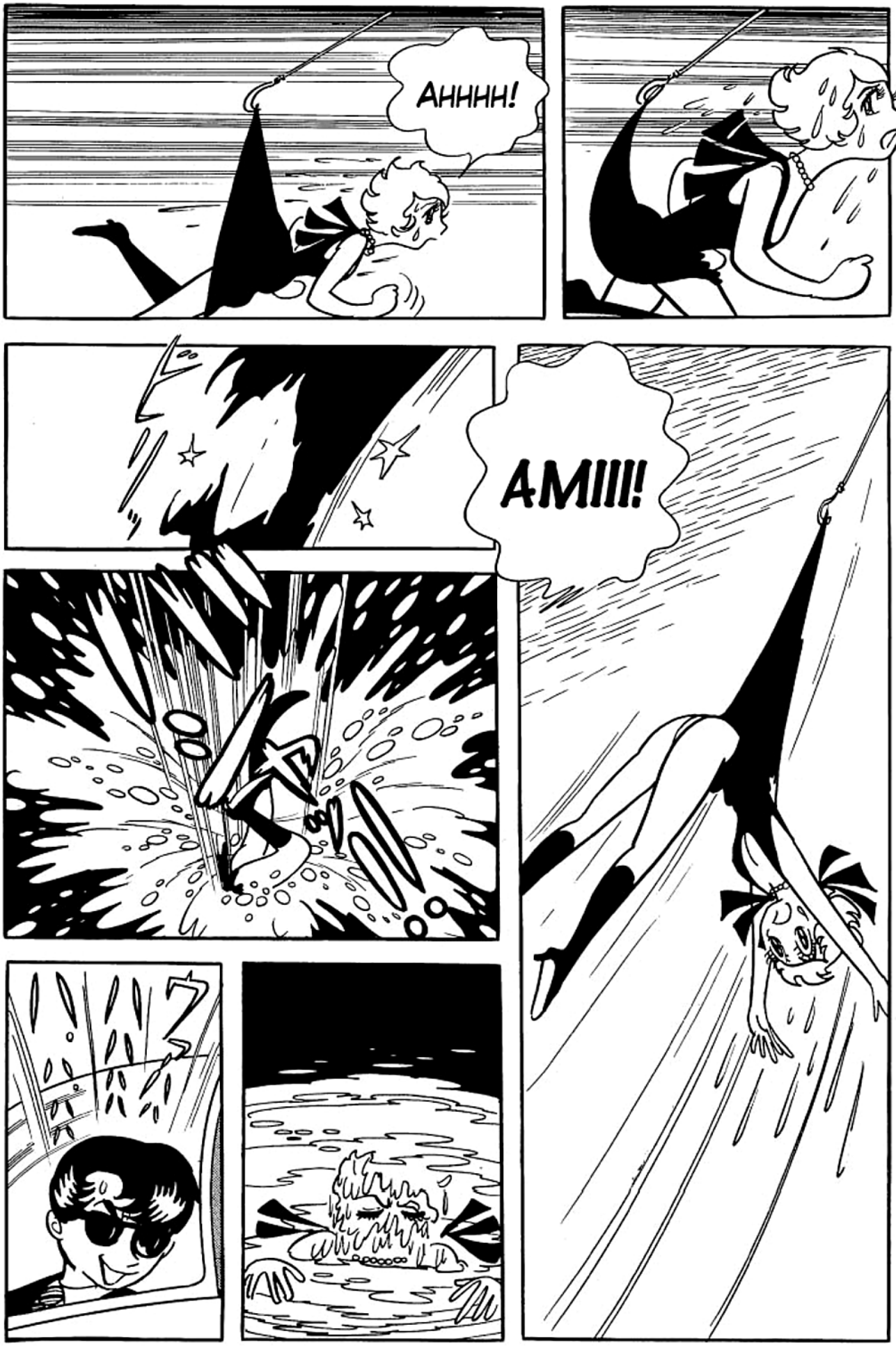

OF COURSE, I WOULDN'T BE SO RUDE AS TO LEAVE A BOMB THAT COULD BLOW YOU INTO SMITHEREENS.

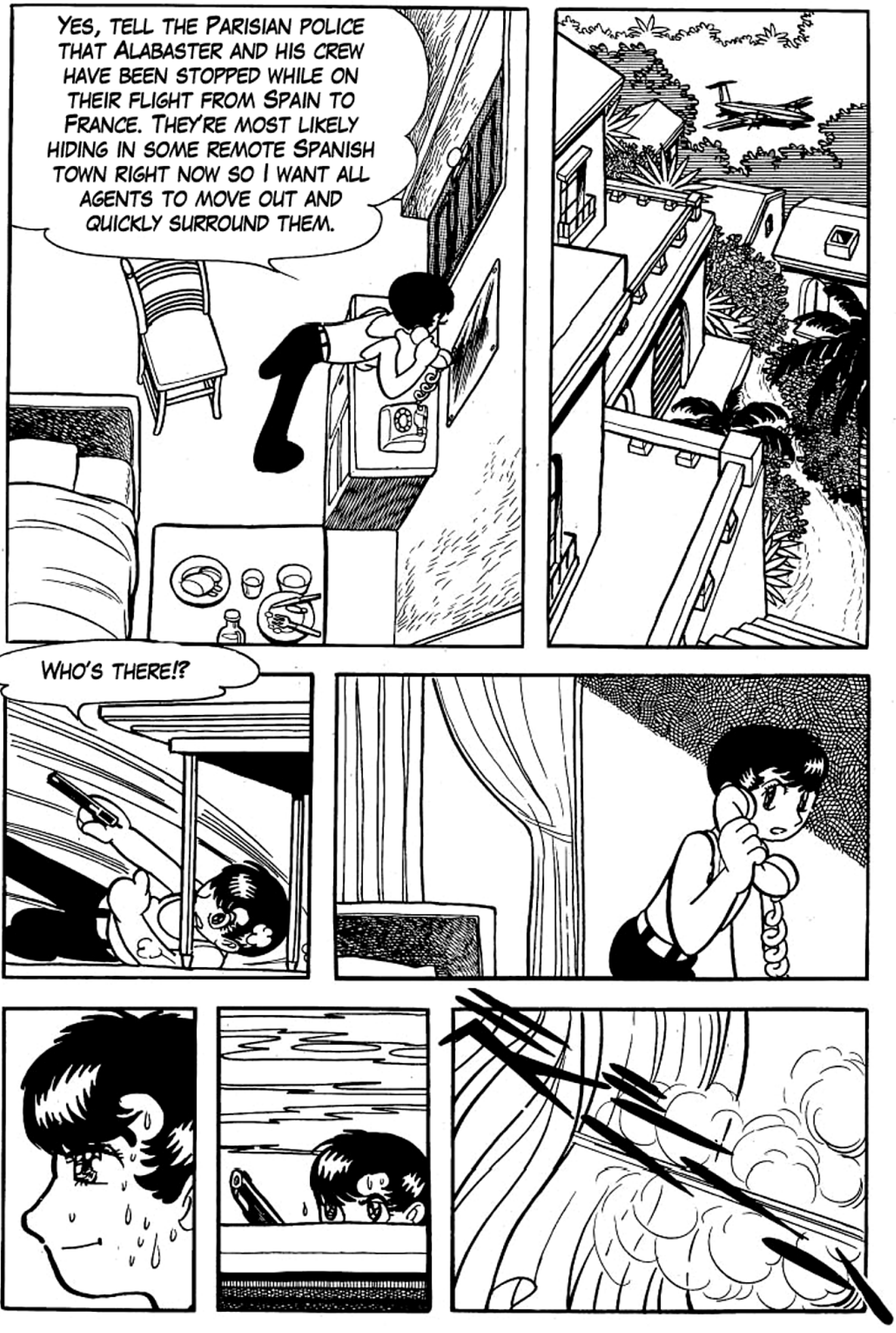

IT MIGHT BE A TIME-BOMB! FIND THE PACKAGE RIGHT AWAY!
FOR YOU... INSIDE... YOUR PLANE... FINDING IT... WILL BE EASY...

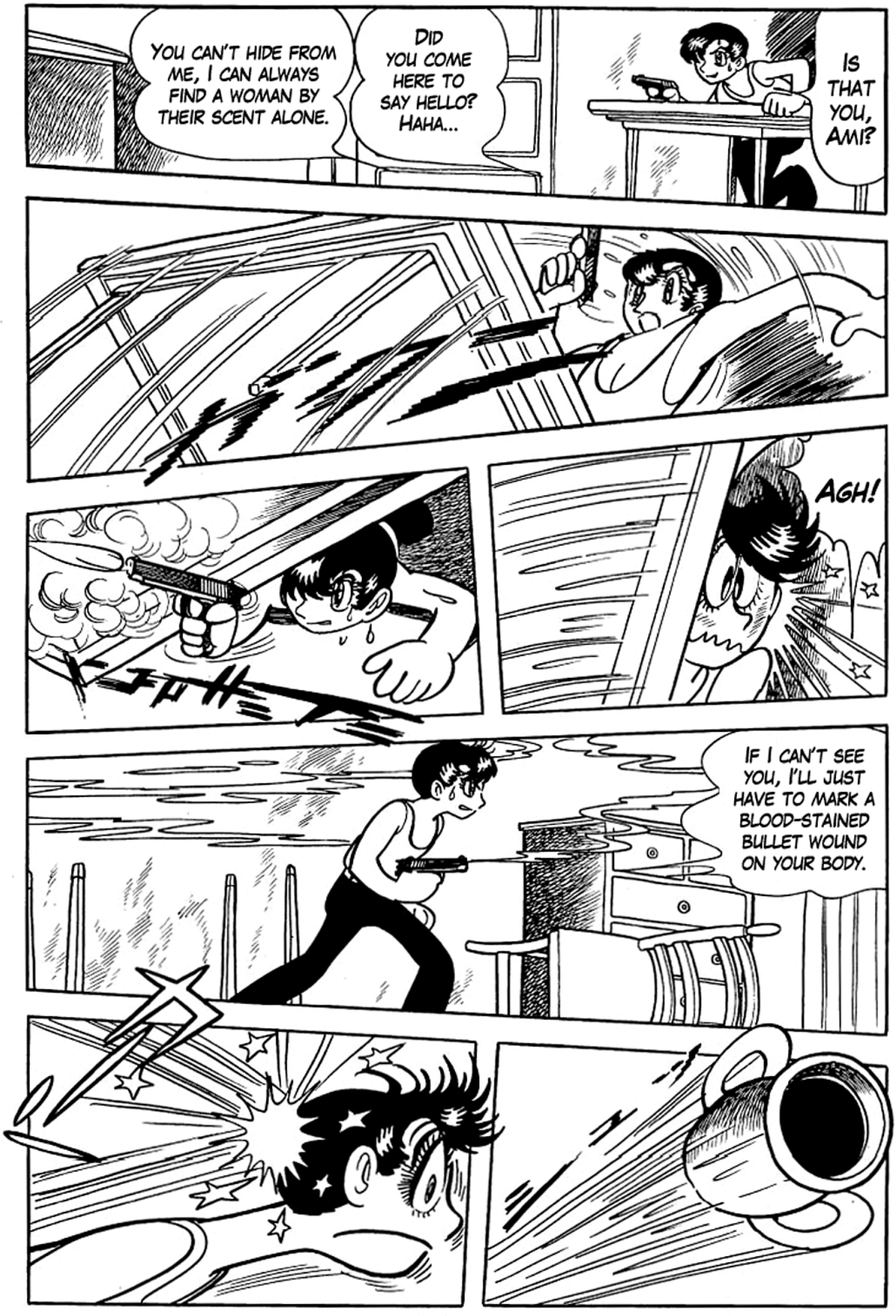

AND POISONOUS SPIDERS!
AHH! SCORPIONS!
NONETHELESS, IT'S QUITE THE APPROPRIATE GIFT FOR YOU FELLOWS.
DAMN HIM!
I HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY IT, AS I'VE COME PRECISELY TO YOUR DELIGHTED FACES.
AHH! DON'T LET THEM GET INSIDE THE COCKPIT!
HURRY UP AND KILL'EM! BUT DON'T USE ANY GUNS!
EVERYONE, GET OFF THE PLANE! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS HERE!
O-OH CRAP...

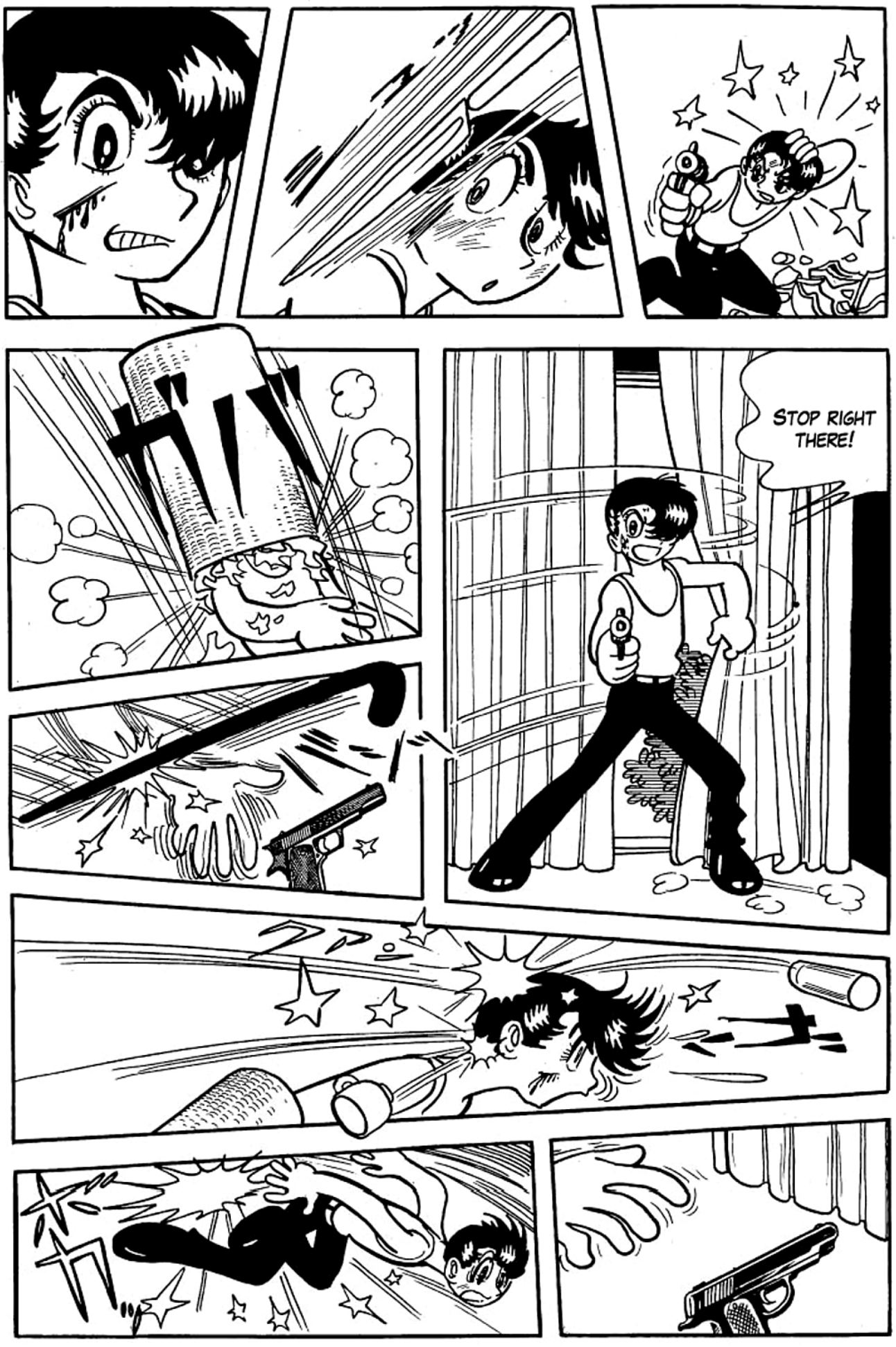

I'LL GET YOU BACK FOR THIS, ROCK...

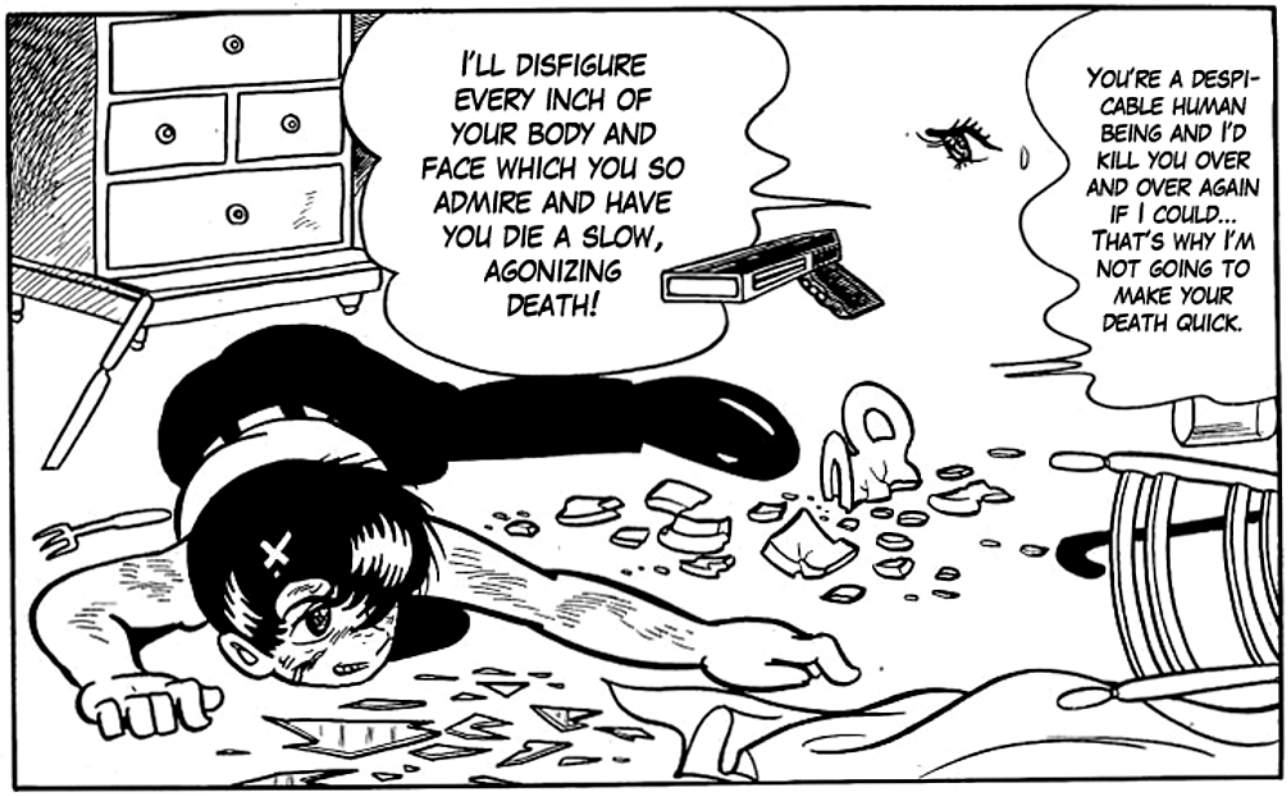

AMI! NO, DON'T RUN! YOU'VE GOTTA DUCK INSTEAD!

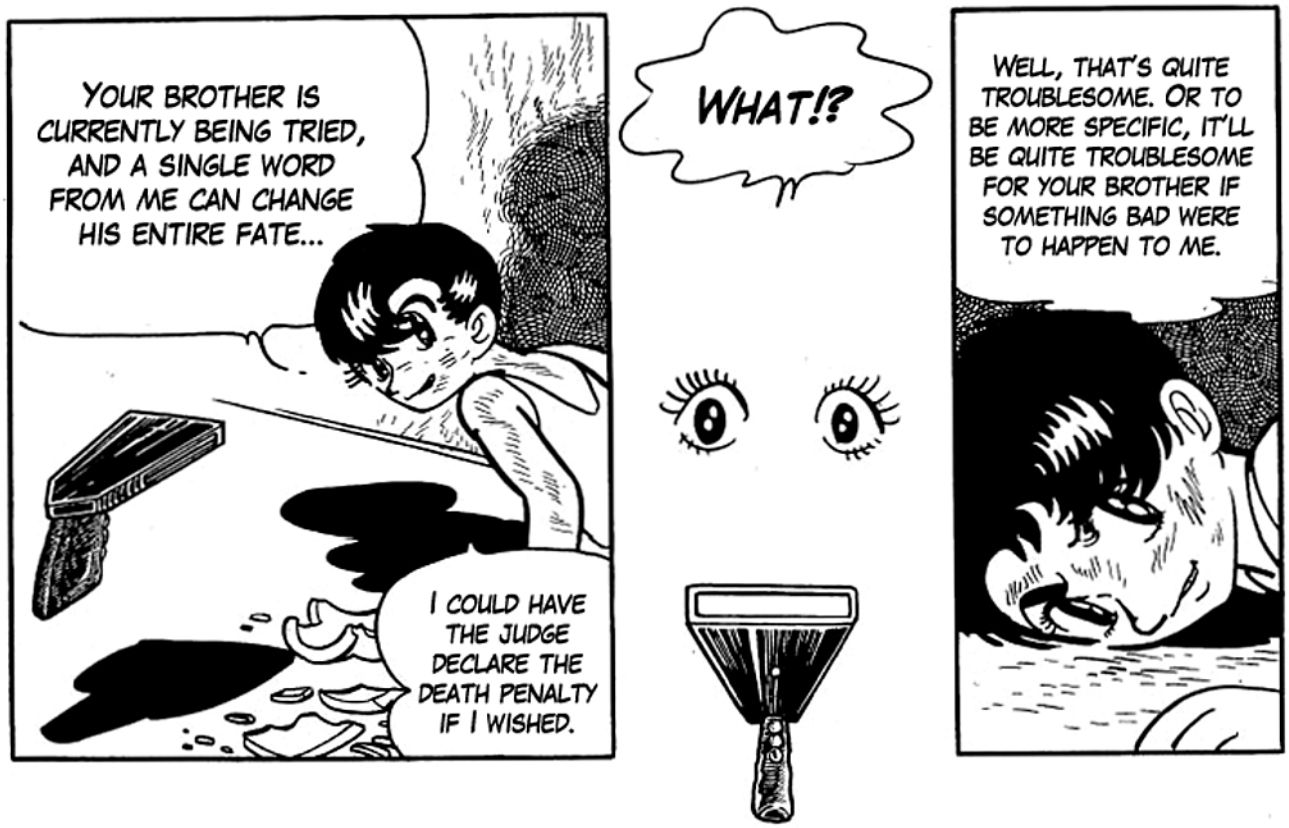

AHHHH!
AMIII!

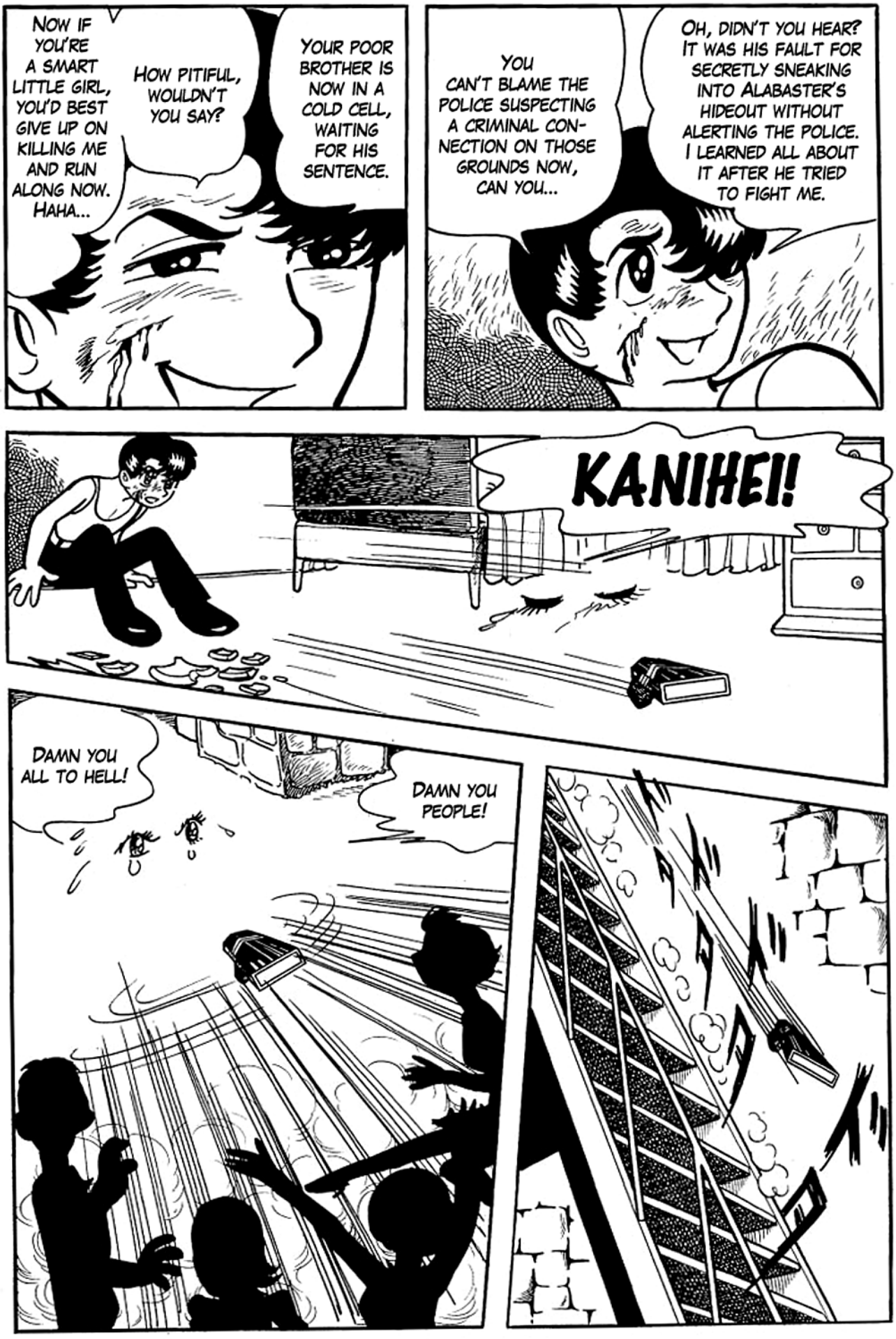

YES, TELL THE PARISIAN POLICE THAT ALABASTER AND HIS CREW HAVE BEEN STOPPED WHILE ON THEIR FLIGHT FROM SPAIN TO FRANCE. THEY'RE MOST LIKELY HIDING IN SOME REMOTE SPANISH TOWN RIGHT NOW SO I WANT ALL AGENTS TO MOVE OUT AND QUICKLY SURROUND THEM.
WHO'S THERE!?

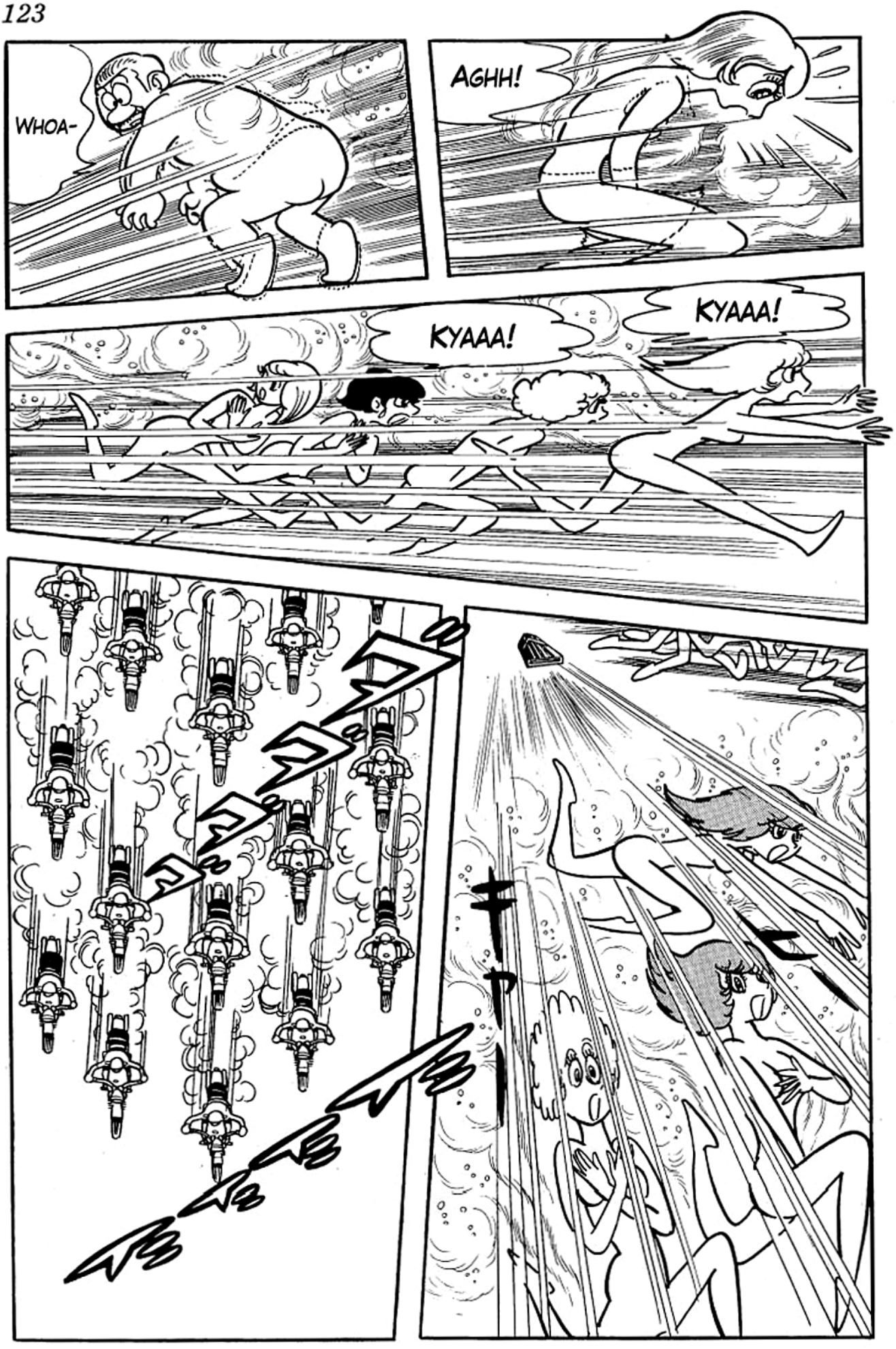

IS THAT YOU, AMI?
DID YOU COME HERE TO SAY HELLO? HAHA...
YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ME, I CAN ALWAYS FIND A WOMAN BY THEIR SCENT ALONE.
AGH!
IF I CAN'T SEE YOU, I'LL JUST HAVE TO MARK A BLOOD-STAINED BULLET WOUND ON YOUR BODY.


STOP RIGHT THERE!

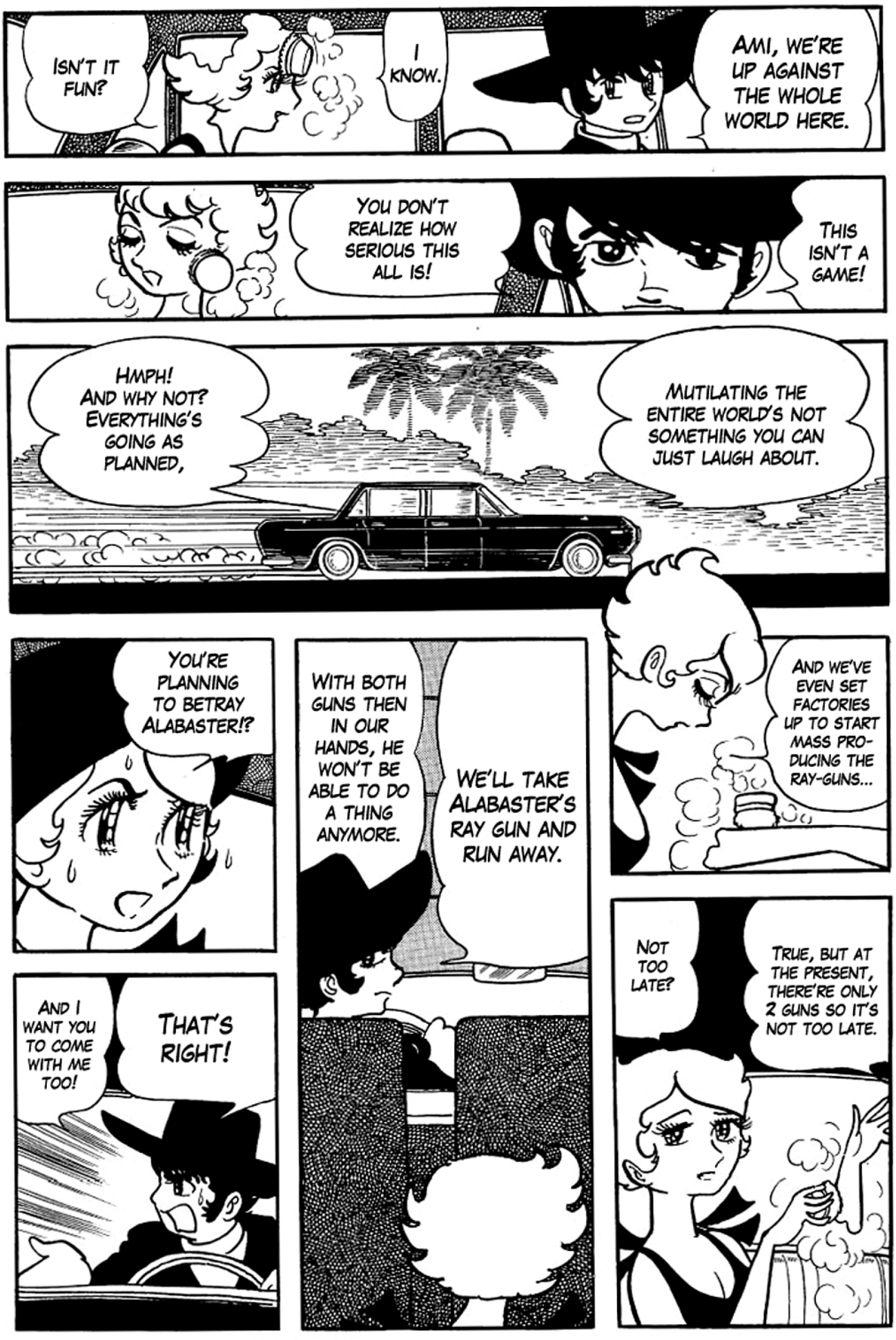

I'LL DISFIGURE EVERY INCH OF YOUR BODY AND FACE WHICH YOU SO ADMIRE AND HAVE YOU DIE A SLOW, AGONIZING DEATH!
YOU'RE A DESPICABLE HUMAN BEING AND I'D KILL YOU OVER AND OVER AGAIN IF I COULD... THAT'S WHY I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE YOUR DEATH QUICK.

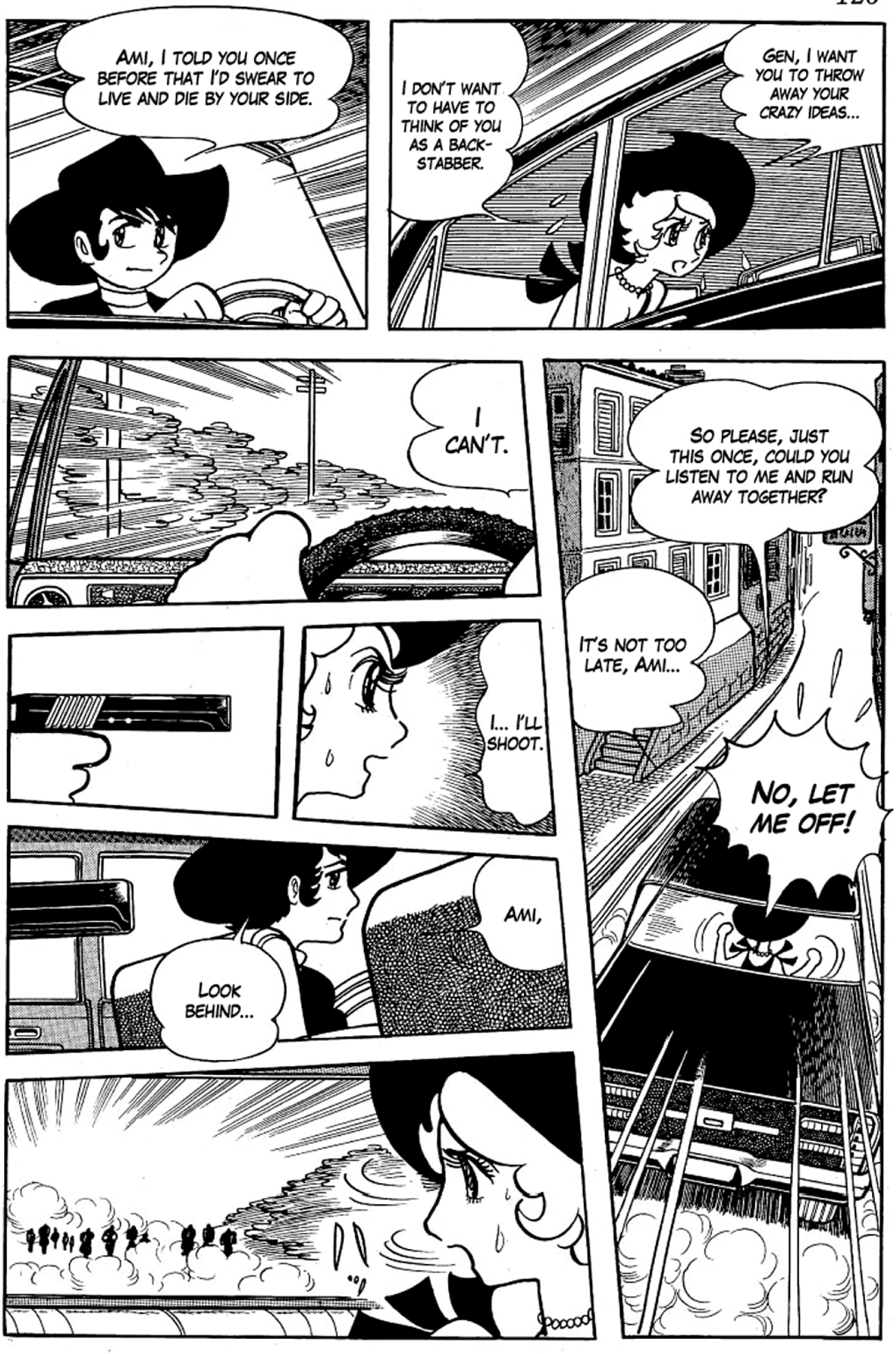

YOUR BROTHER IS CURRENTLY BEING TRIED, AND A SINGLE WORD FROM ME CAN CHANGE HIS ENTIRE FATE...
I COULD HAVE THE JUDGE DECLARE THE DEATH PENALTY IF I WISHED.
WHAT!?
WELL, THAT'S QUITE TROUBLESOME. OR TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, IT'LL BE QUITE TROUBLESOME FOR YOUR BROTHER IF SOMETHING BAD WERE TO HAPPEN TO ME.

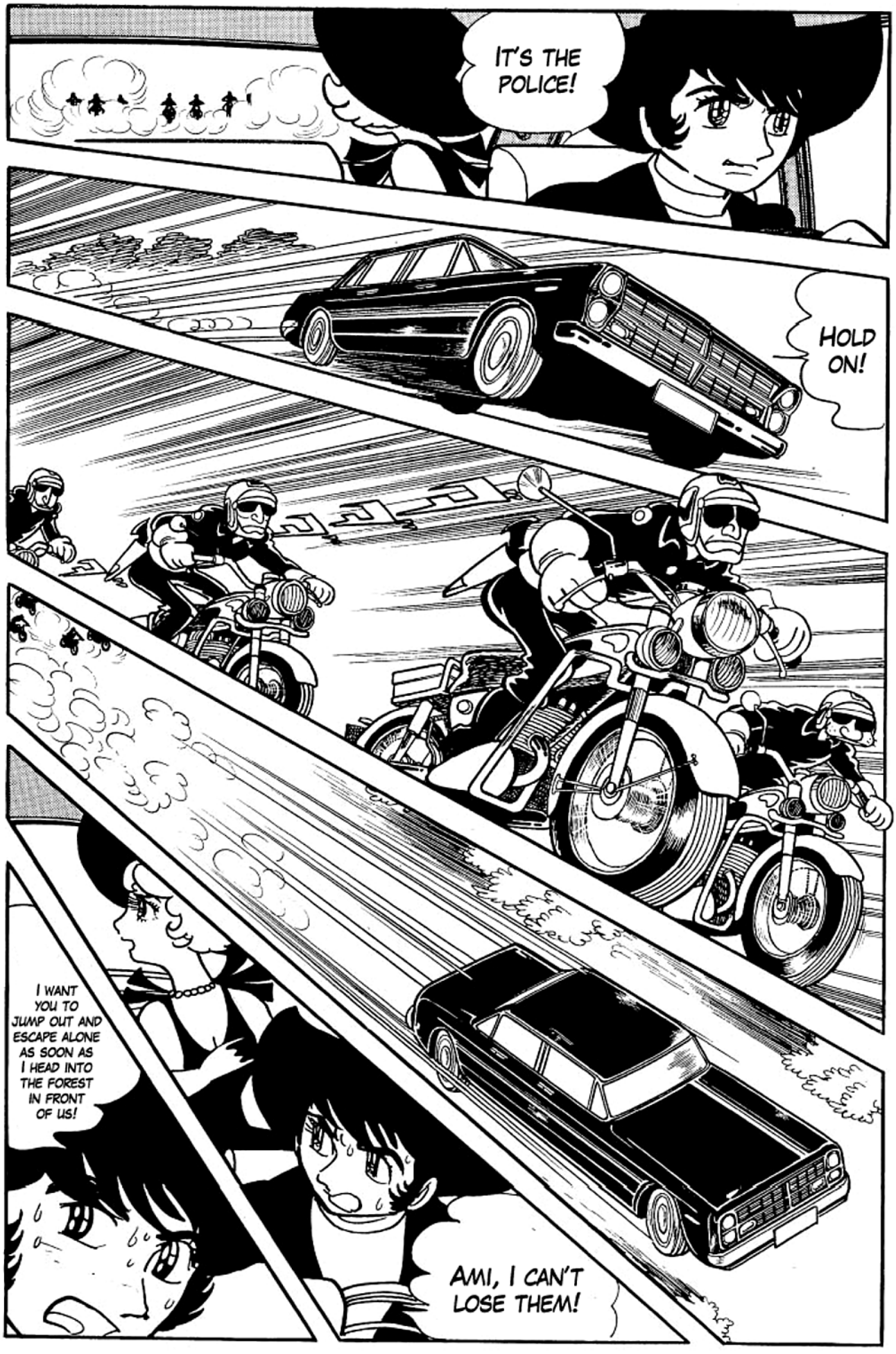

NOW IF YOU'RE A SMART LITTLE GIRL, YOU'D BEST GIVE UP ON KILLING ME AND RUN ALONG NOW. HAHA...
HOW PITIFUL, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
YOUR POOR BROTHER IS NOW IN A COLD CELL, WAITING FOR HIS SENTENCE.
YOU CAN'T BLAME THE POLICE SUSPECTING A CRIMINAL CONNECTION ON THOSE GROUNDS NOW, CAN YOU...
OH, DIDN'T YOU HEAR? IT WAS HIS FAULT FOR SECRETLY SNEAKING INTO ALABASTER'S HIDEOUT WITHOUT ALERTING THE POLICE. I LEARNED ALL ABOUT IT AFTER HE TRIED TO FIGHT ME.
KANIHEI!
DAMN YOU ALL TO HELL!
DAMN YOU PEOPLE!

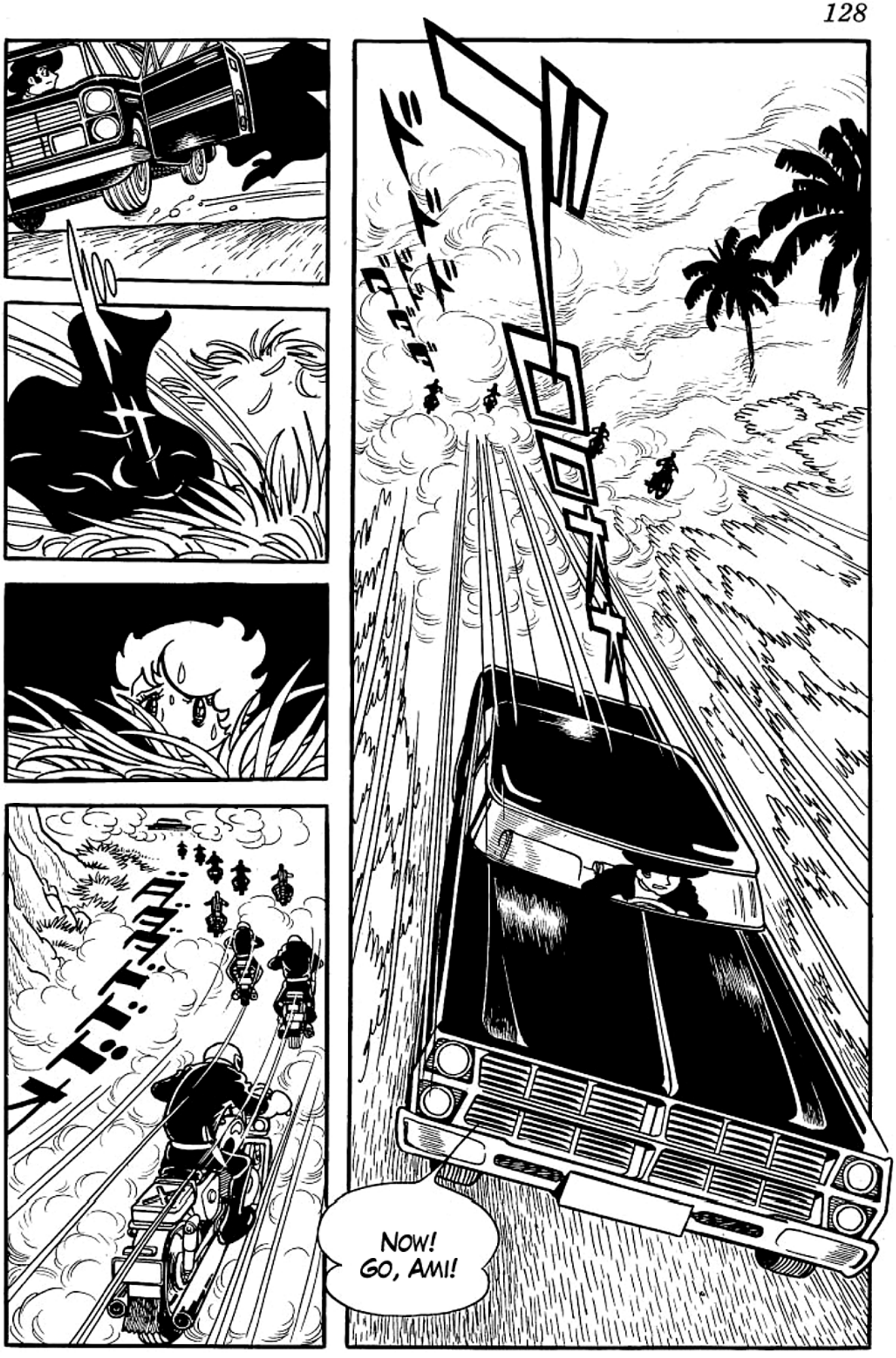

WHOA-
AGHH!
KYAAA!
KYAAA!

PUT SOME CLOTHES AND MAKEUP ON SO I CAN SEE YOU.
I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD IT WITH THIS LIFE ON THE RUN!
AMI, YOU'RE BECOMING MORE AND MORE OF A CROOK THESE DAYS THAT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
AMI, THIS WAY!


ISN'T IT FUN?
I KNOW.
AMI, WE'RE UP AGAINST THE WHOLE WORLD HERE.
YOU DON'T REALIZE HOW SERIOUS THIS ALL IS!
THIS ISN'T A GAME!
HMPH! AND WHY NOT? EVERYTHING'S GOING AS PLANNED,
MUTILATING THE ENTIRE WORLD'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN JUST LAUGH ABOUT.
AND WE'VE EVEN SET FACTORIES UP TO START MASS PRODUCING THE RAY-GUNS...
YOU'RE PLANNING TO BETRAY ALABASTER!?
WITH BOTH GUNS THEN IN OUR HANDS, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO A THING ANYMORE.
WE'LL TAKE ALABASTER'S RAY GUN AND RUN AWAY.
NOT TOO LATE?
TRUE, BUT AT THE PRESENT, THERE'RE ONLY 2 GUNS SO IT'S NOT TOO LATE.
AND I WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME TOO!
THAT'S RIGHT!


AMI, I TOLD YOU ONCE BEFORE THAT I'D SWEAR TO LIVE AND DIE BY YOUR SIDE.
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO THINK OF YOU AS A BACK-STABBER.
GEN, I WANT YOU TO THROW AWAY YOUR CRAZY IDEAS...
I CAN'T.
SO PLEASE, JUST THIS ONCE, COULD YOU LISTEN TO ME AND RUN AWAY TOGETHER?
IT'S NOT TOO LATE, AMI...
I... I'LL SHOOT.
NO, LET ME OFF!
AMI,
LOOK BEHIND...


IT'S THE POLICE!
HOLD ON!
I WANT YOU TO JUMP OUT AND ESCAPE ALONE AS SOON AS I HEAD INTO THE FOREST IN FRONT OF US!
AMI, I CAN'T LOSE THEM!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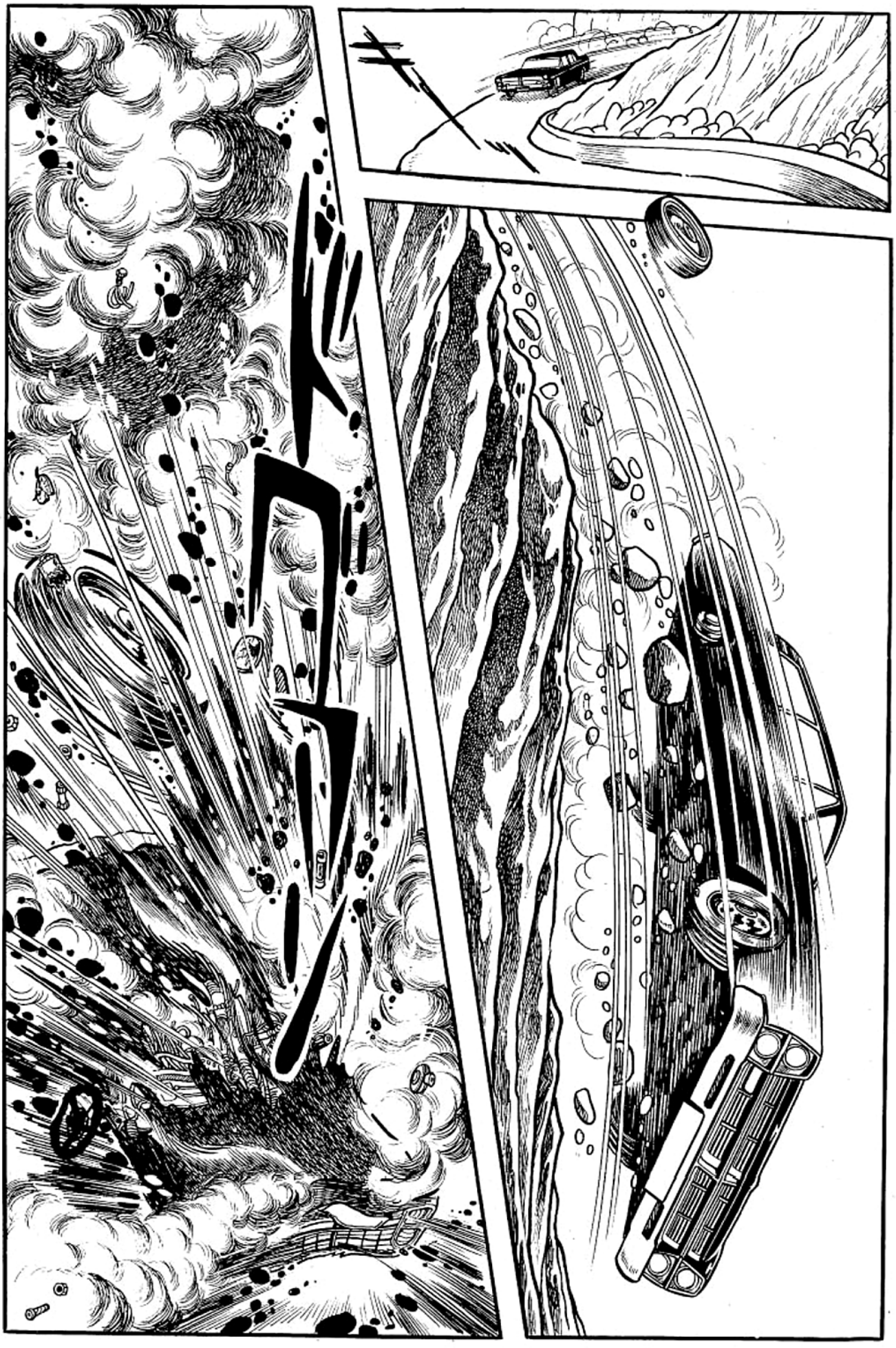
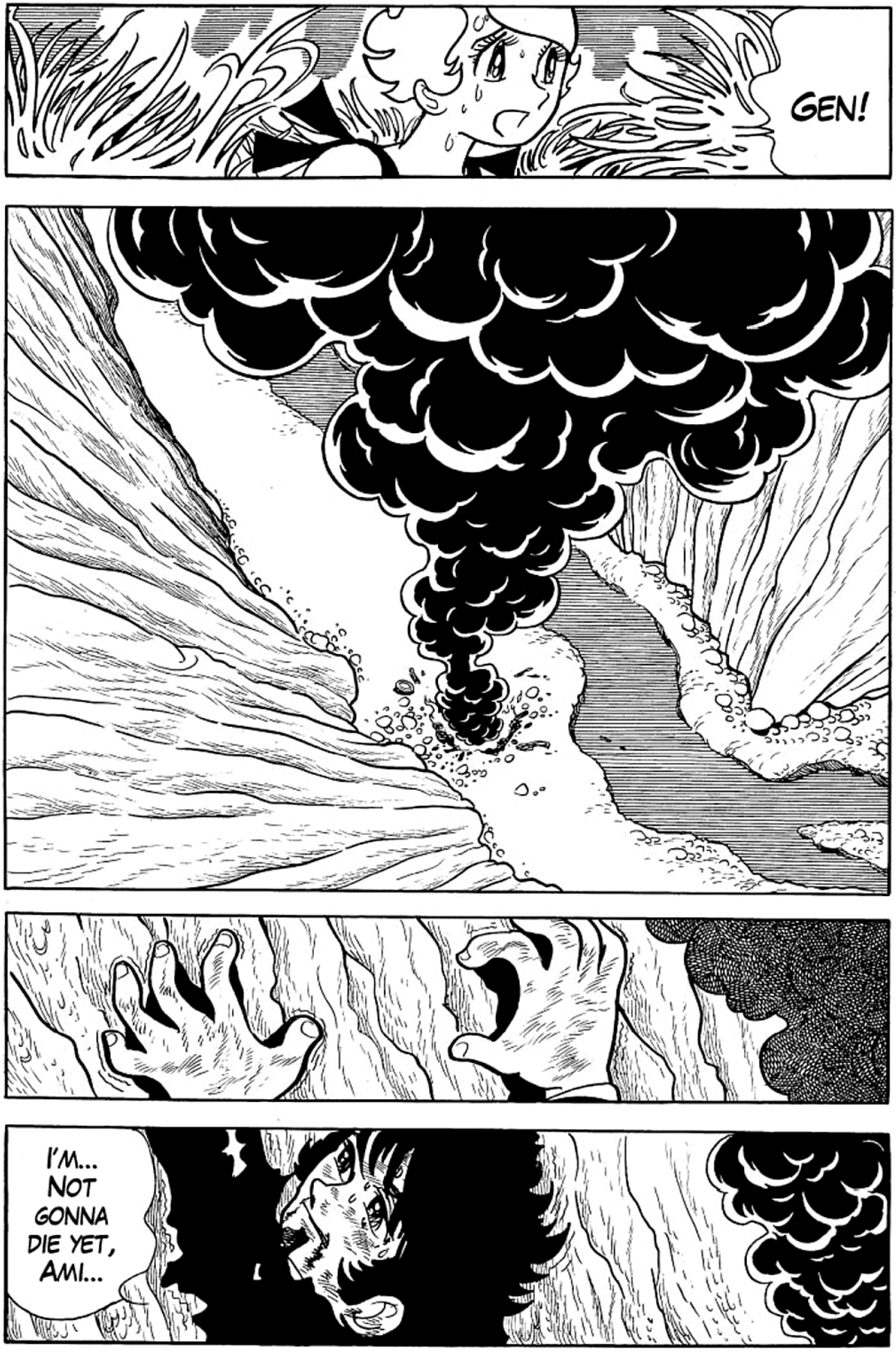
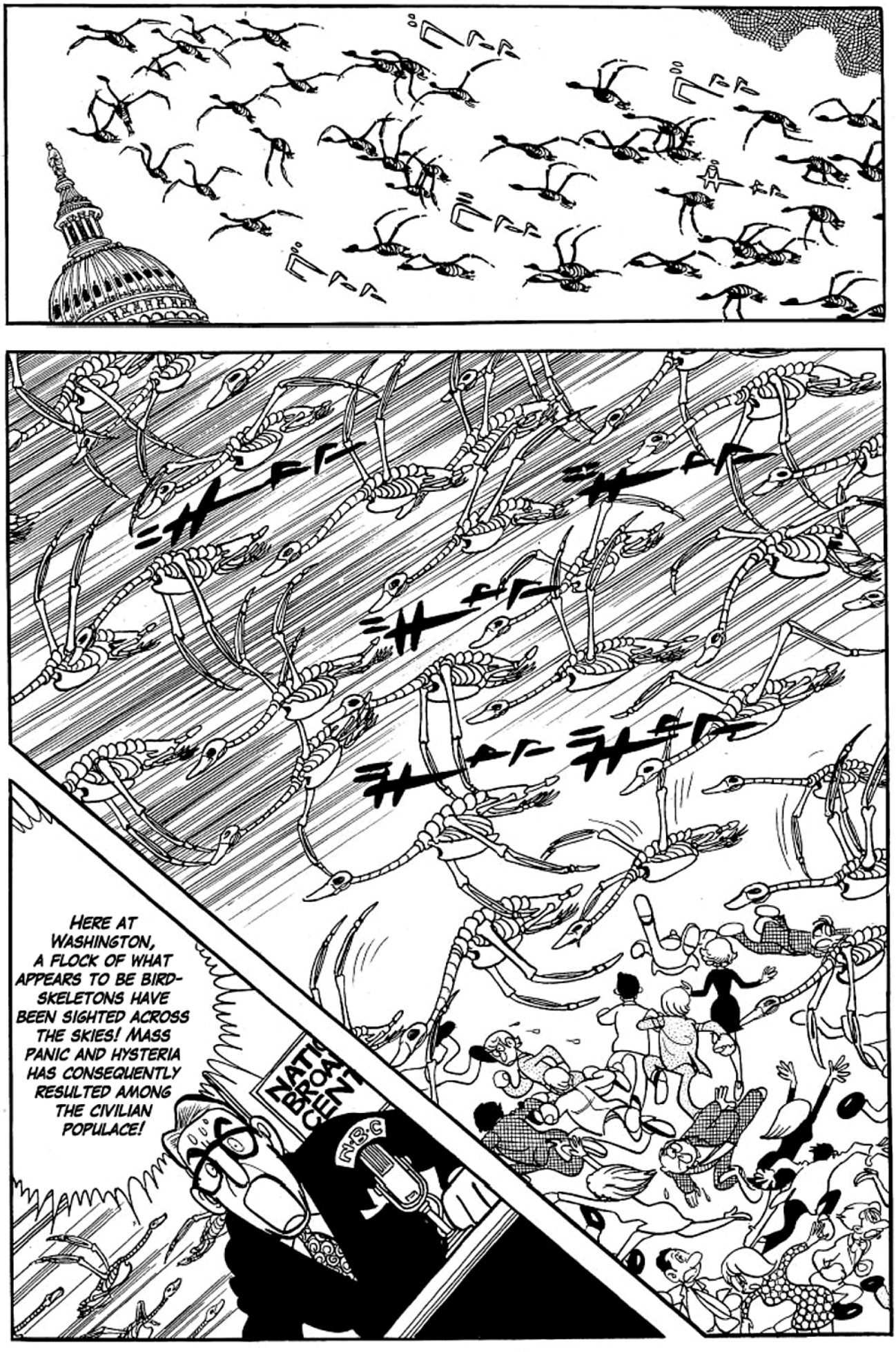
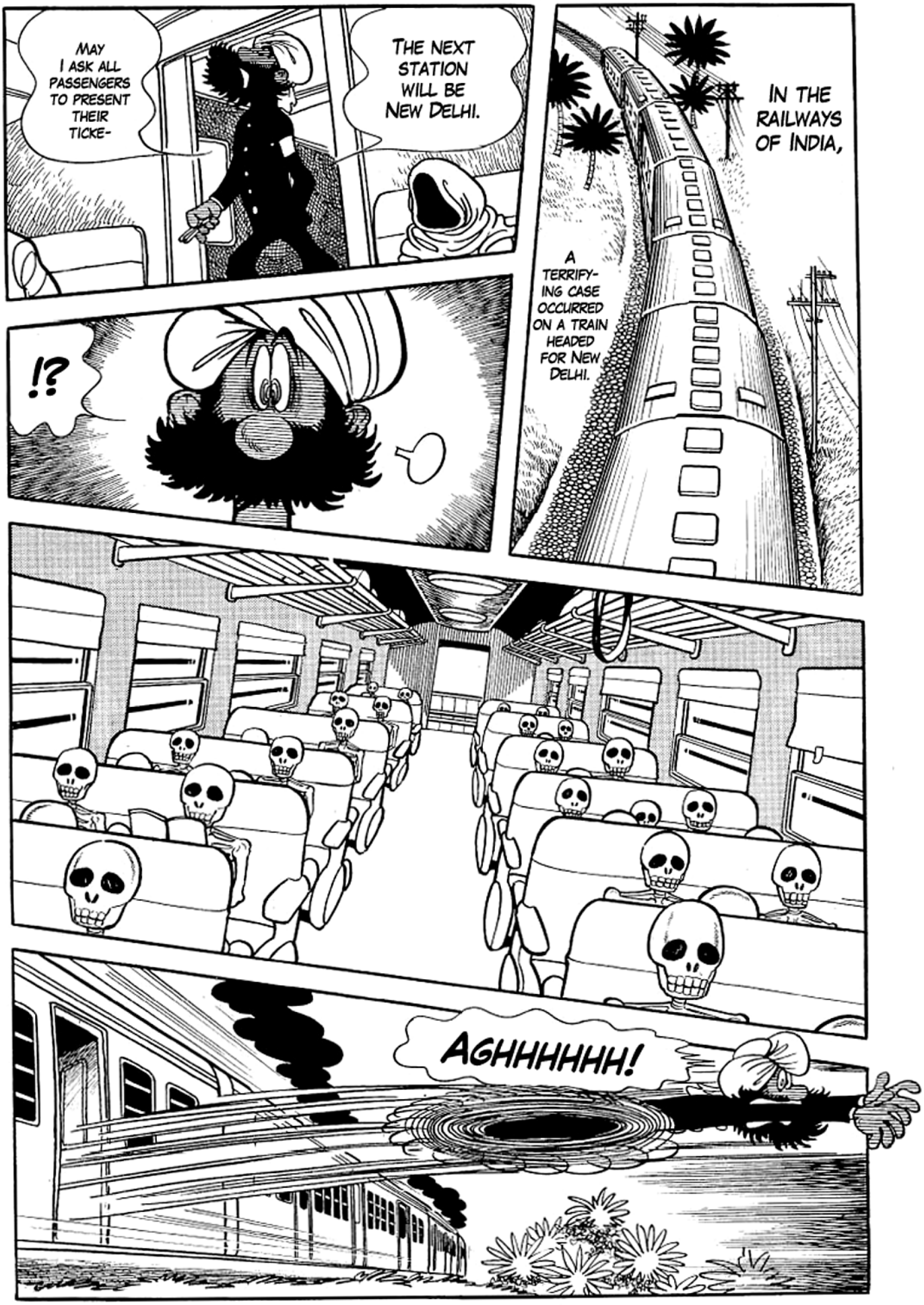



GEN!
I'M... NOT GONNA DIE YET, AMI...

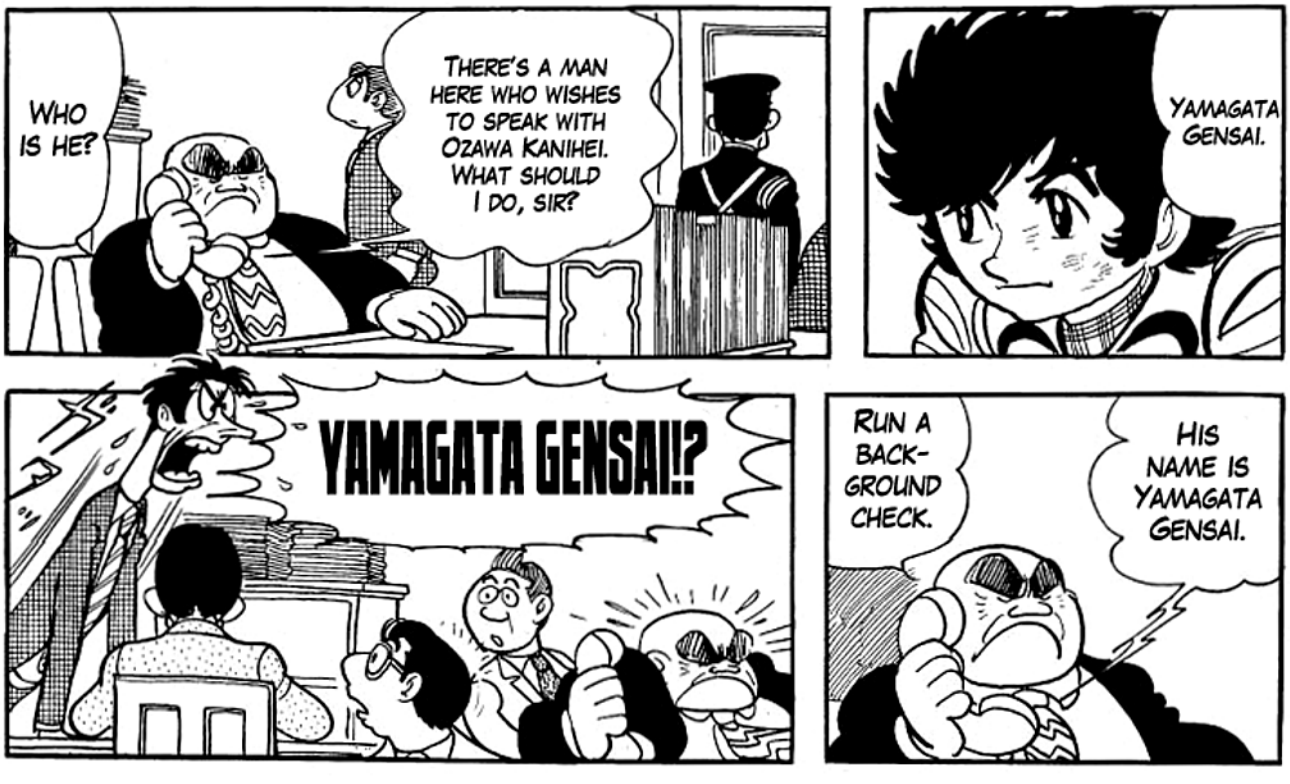

HERE AT WASHINGTON, A FLOCK OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE BIRD-SKELETONS HAVE BEEN SIGHTED ACROSS THE SKIES! MASS PANIC AND HYSTERIA HAS CONSEQUENTLY RESULTED AMONG THE CIVILIAN POPULACE!
NBC

Chapter 9
Fortress by the Lake

IN THE STREETS OF CHICAGO AT NIGHT,
THIS IS CHICAGO NEWS, HERE TO REPORT TO YOU AN ALARMING PIECE OF NEWS THAT'S ALMOST TOO BIZARRE TO BELIEVE.
CITIZENS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ATTACKED BY A FLOATING DOG'S HEAD.
KYAAAA!
HEEEELP!
A FLOATING HEAD OF A DOG...

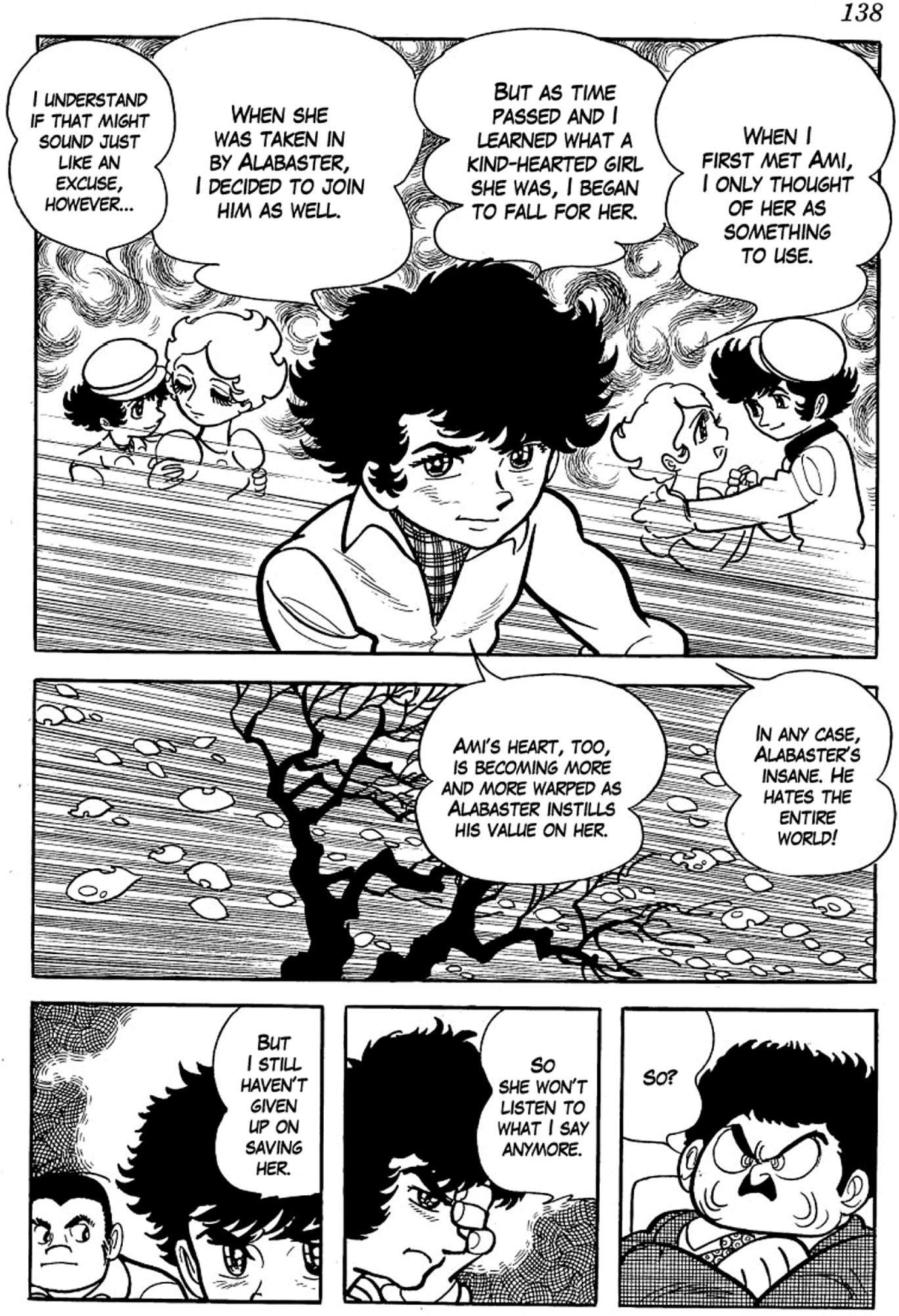

MAY I ASK ALL PASSENGERS TO PRESENT THEIR TICKE-
THE NEXT STATION WILL BE NEW DELHI.
IN THE RAILWAYS OF INDIA,
A TERRIFY-ING CASE OCCURRED ON A TRAIN HEADED FOR NEW DELHI.
!?
AGHHHHHH!

Despite this major threat, the whereabouts to Alabaster's hideout remains as elusive as ever...
Alabaster's reign of terror is spreading further and further across the world, and his methods are becoming even wilder than before!
I'm here to visit a suspect.
Please hold on a mom-ent and may I have your name?
His name's Ozawa Kanihei.

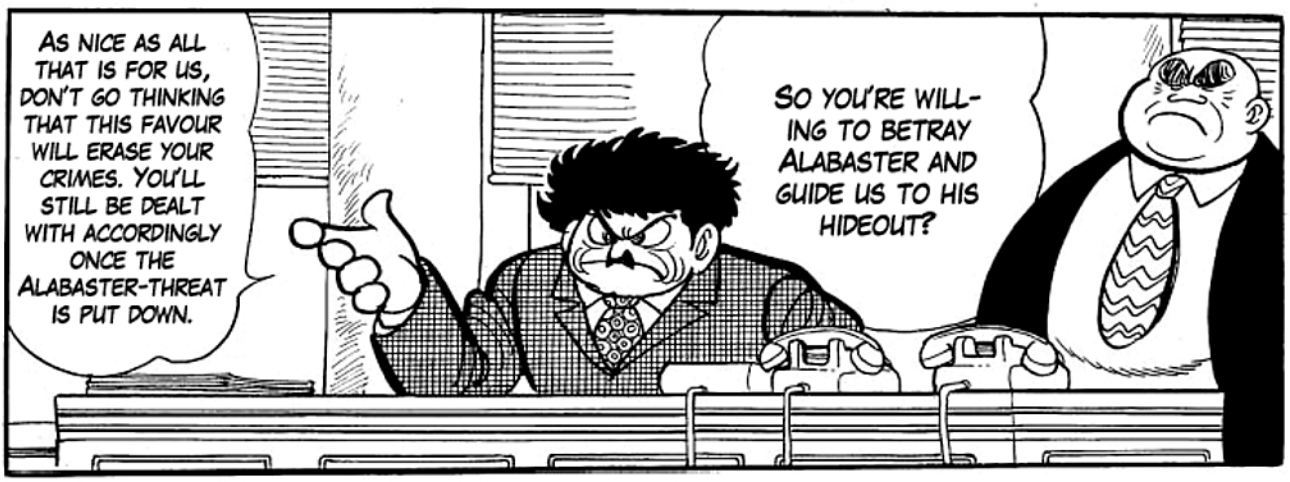

Who is he?
There's a man here who wishes to speak with Ozawa Kanihei. What should I do, sir?
Yamagata Gensai.
YAMAGATA GENSAI!?
Run a back-ground check.
His name is Yamagata Gensai.

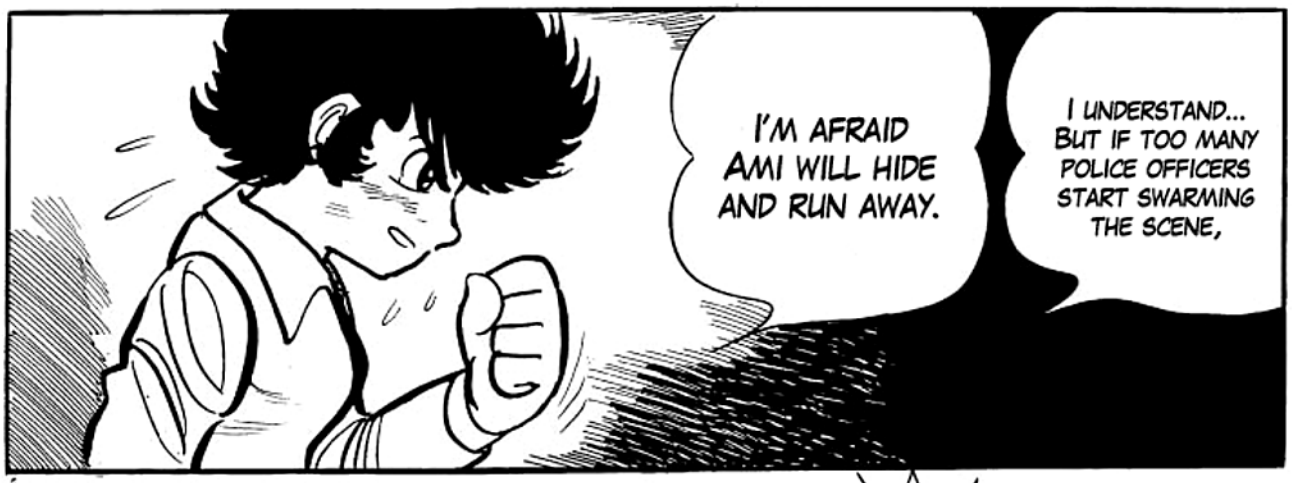
I AIN'T GONNA RUN OR HIDE.
HOLD YOUR HORSES, DETECTIVES.
YOU'RE THE SAME YAMAGATA WHO RAN AWAY FROM TOUZAI JUVENILE DETENTION HALL YEARS AGO, RIGHT?
YAMAGATA GENSAI, WE HEREBY PLACE YOU UNDER ARREST FOR BEING A MEMBER OF ALABASTER'S GANG.
BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY OZAWA KANIHEI'S NOT ONE OF US.
AND AS ONE OF ALABASTER'S HENCHMEN,
THIS WAY.
ALRIGHT THEN... I WANT YOU AND OZAWA TO COME TO MY OFFICE FOR A TALK.
SIT.

HAHA, NO, NOT AT ALL.
DO YOU HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST ME 'CAUSE OF THAT?
Y'KNOW, YOUR MOM WAS THE PROSECUTOR WHO SENT ME AWAY TO JUVIE WAY BACK WHEN.
KANIHEI... AMI'S OLDER BROTHER, RIGHT?
WHICH IS WHY I WILLINGLY CAME TO THE POLICE.
CALM DOWN A MOMENT. THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST NOW. I'VE DECIDED TO STOP WORKING FOR HIM,
YOU SON OF A...
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I'M ONE OF ALABASTER'S HENCHMEN.
I LOVE AMI...
YOU WHAT !?
WELL, I...
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, I...

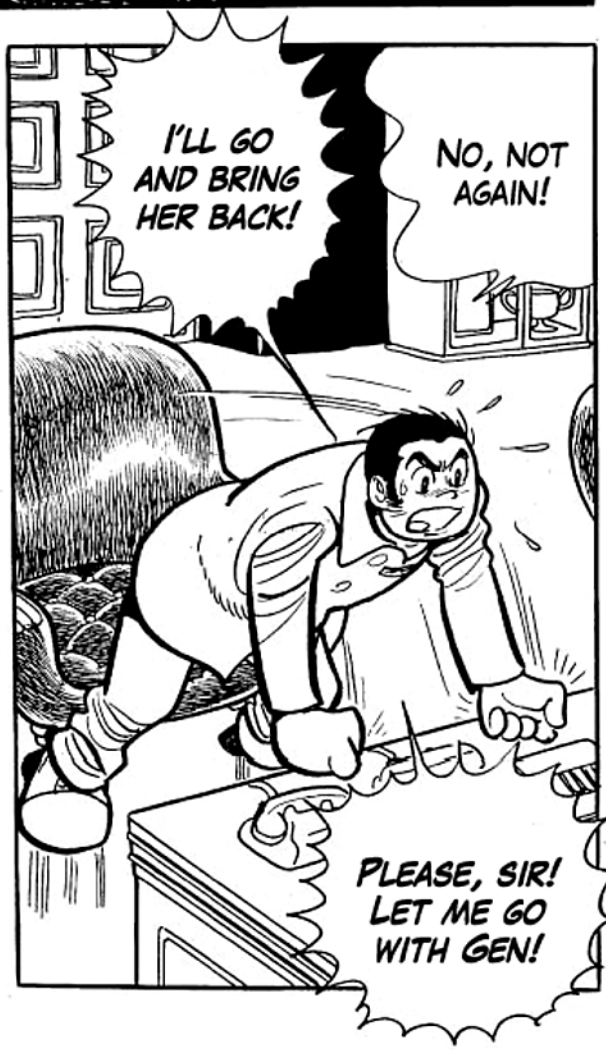

I UNDERSTAND IF THAT MIGHT SOUND JUST LIKE AN EXCUSE, HOWEVER...
WHEN SHE WAS TAKEN IN BY ALABASTER, I DECIDED TO JOIN HIM AS WELL.
BUT AS TIME PASSED AND I LEARNED WHAT A KIND-HEARTED GIRL SHE WAS, I BEGAN TO FALL FOR HER.
WHEN I FIRST MET AMI, I ONLY THOUGHT OF HER AS SOMETHING TO USE.
AMI'S HEART, TOO, IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE WARPED AS ALABASTER INSTILLS HIS VALUE ON HER.
IN ANY CASE, ALABASTER'S INSANE. HE HATES THE ENTIRE WORLD!
BUT I STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON SAVING HER.
SO SHE WON'T LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY ANYMORE.
SO?

SO PLEASE COME WITH ME! I'LL LEAD YOU TO ALABASTER'S HIDEOUT!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN SET HER STRAIGHT!
PLEASE!
I THINK... YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT AMI WOULD STILL LISTEN TO RIGHT NOW, KANIHEI...

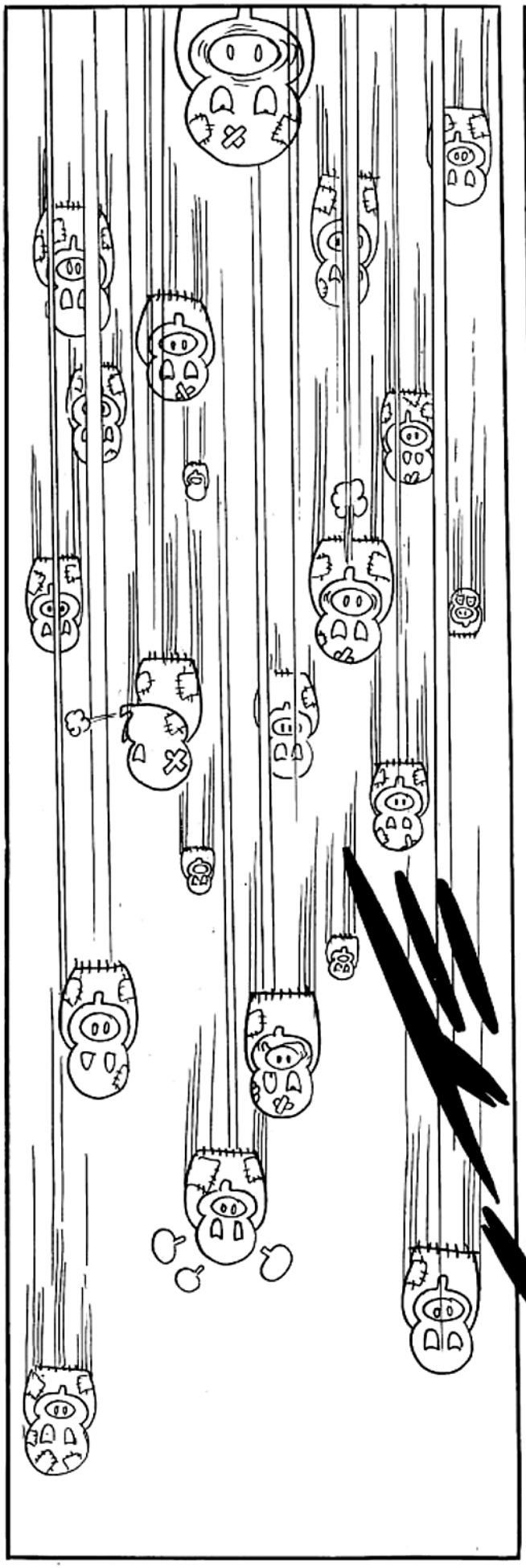

AS NICE AS ALL THAT IS FOR US, DON'T GO THINKING THAT THIS FAVOUR WILL ERASE YOUR CRIMES. YOU'LL STILL BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY ONCE THE ALABASTER-THREAT IS PUT DOWN.
SO YOU'RE WILLING TO BETRAY ALABASTER AND GUIDE US TO HIS HIDEOUT?


I'M AFRAID AMI WILL HIDE AND RUN AWAY.
I UNDERSTAND... BUT IF TOO MANY POLICE OFFICERS START SWARMING THE SCENE,

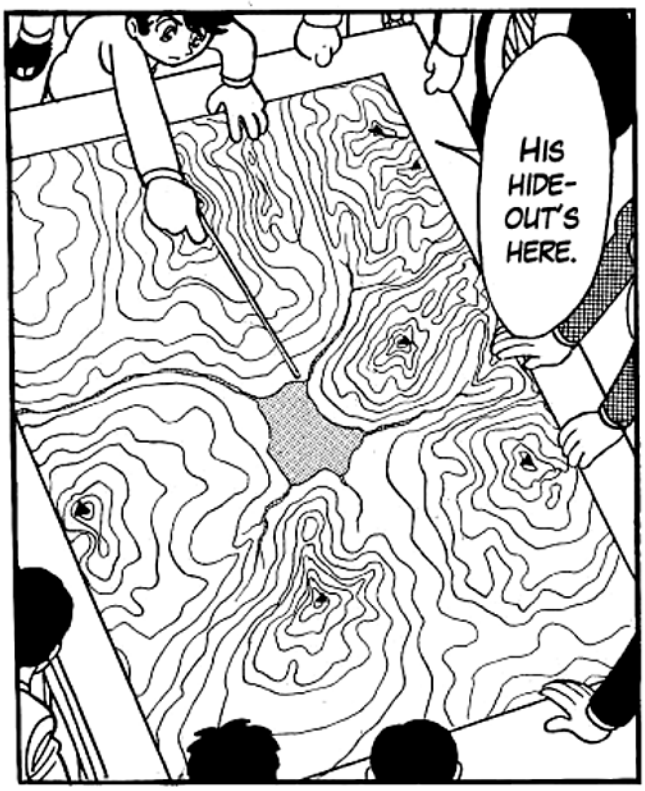
WAIT JUST A MINUTE!
OUR OBJECTIVE ISN'T TO TAKE AMI ALONE INTO CUSTODY! IT'S TO PUT AN END TO ALABASTER AND HIS ENTIRE GANG!

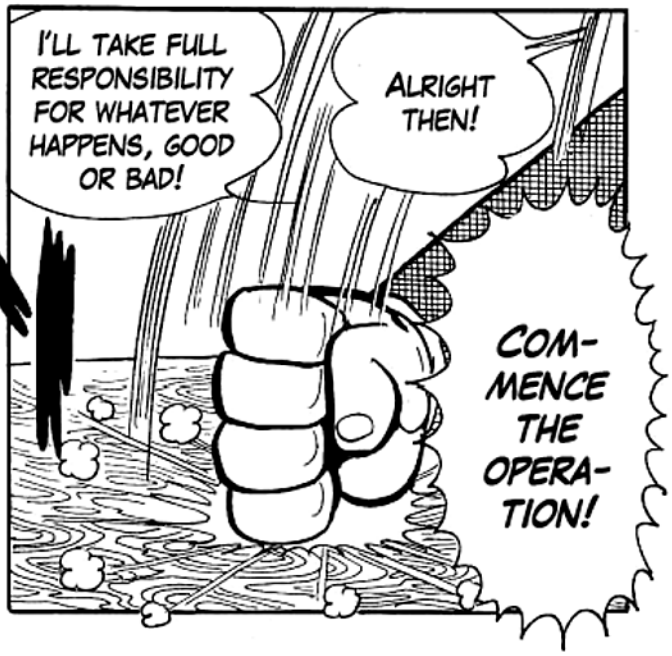

I'LL GO AND BRING HER BACK!
NO, NOT AGAIN!
PLEASE, SIR! LET ME GO WITH GEN!

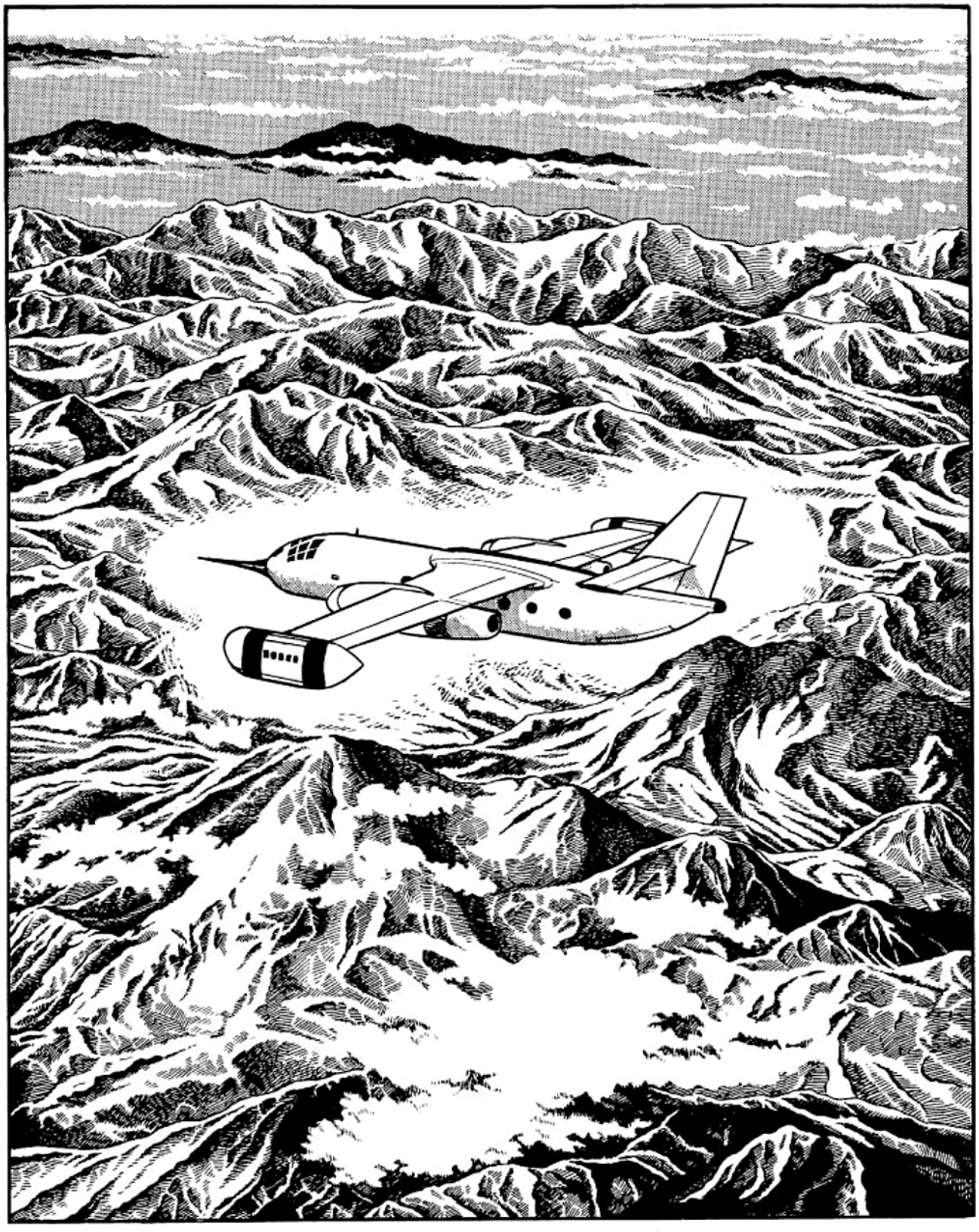
YES, I KNOW. JUST LET THE TWO OF US GO FIRST AND GET AMI.
AFTER THAT'S DONE, YOU CAN BLOW UP THEIR HIDEOUT WITH BOMBS OR MISSILES FOR ALL I CARE!



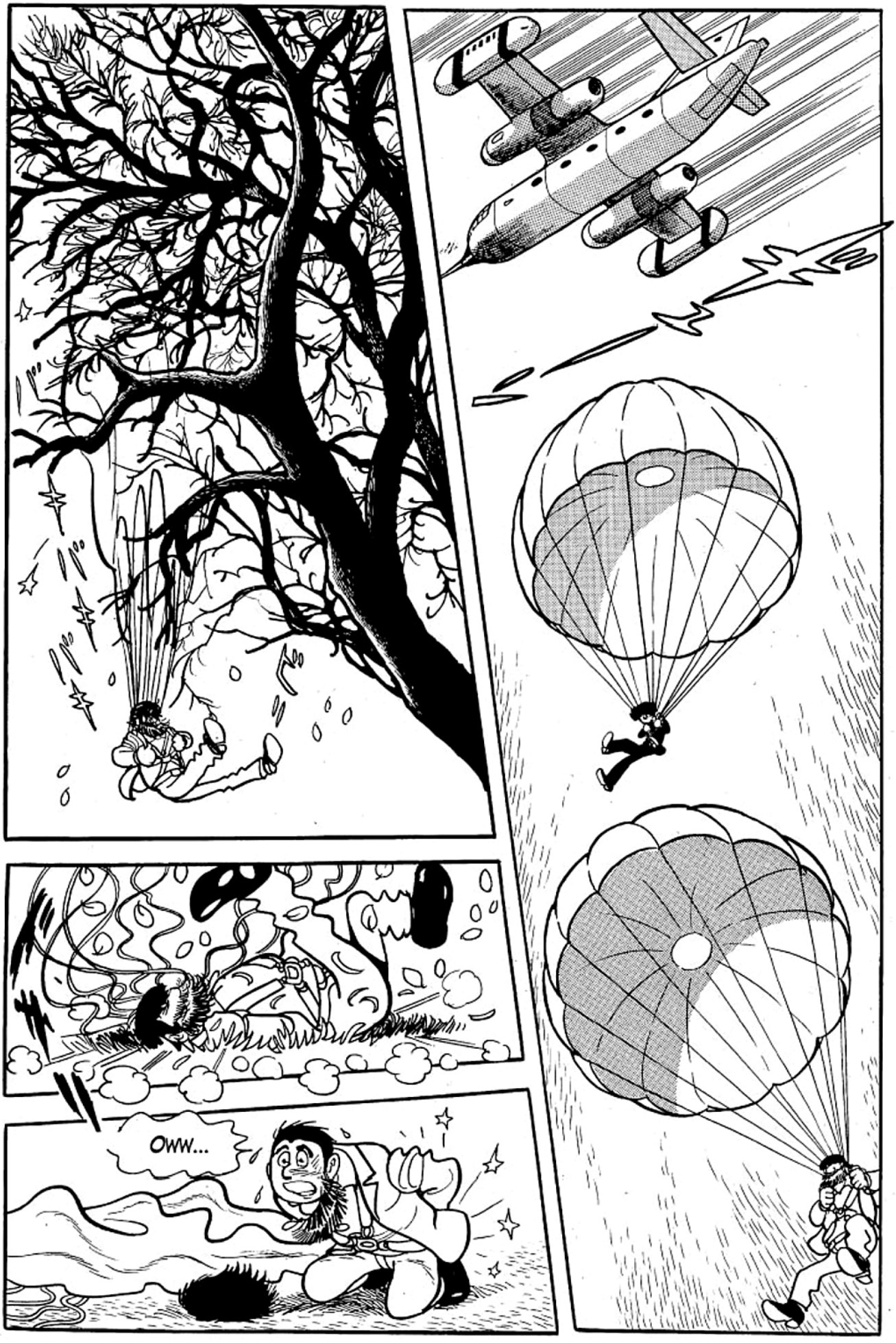
NO... I WANT TO BELIEVE IN THIS YOUNG MAN'S WORDS ...!
CHIEF, DO YOU THINK THIS COULD BE A TRAP SET BY ALABASTER?


HIS HIDE-OUT'S HERE.


I'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHATEVER HAPPENS, GOOD OR BAD!
ALRIGHT THEN!
COM-MENCE THE OPERA-TION!



KANIHEI, WE PUT A HI-TECH MICROPHONE IN YOUR SHOE TO MONITOR YOUR PROGRESS SO BE CAREFUL WITH IT.


OWW...

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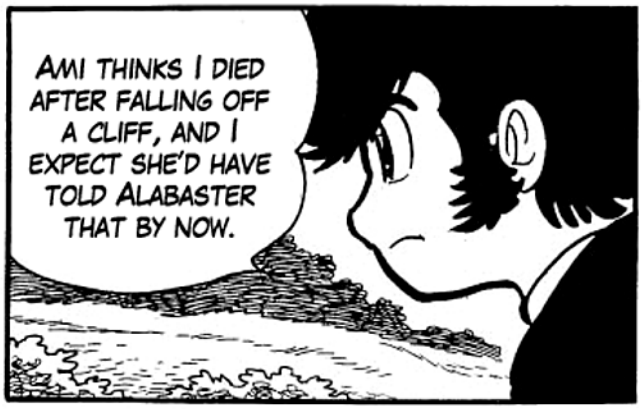
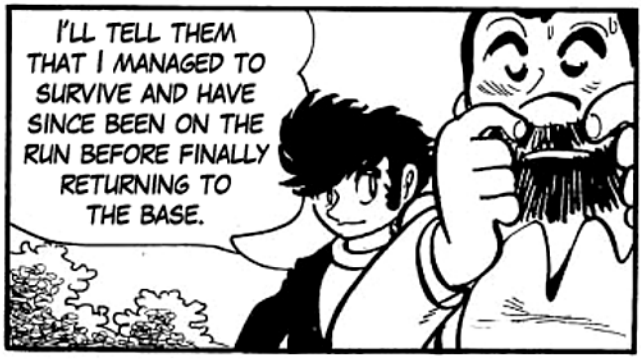
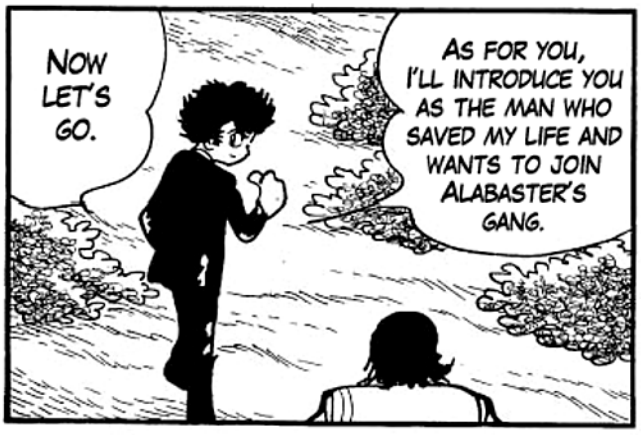
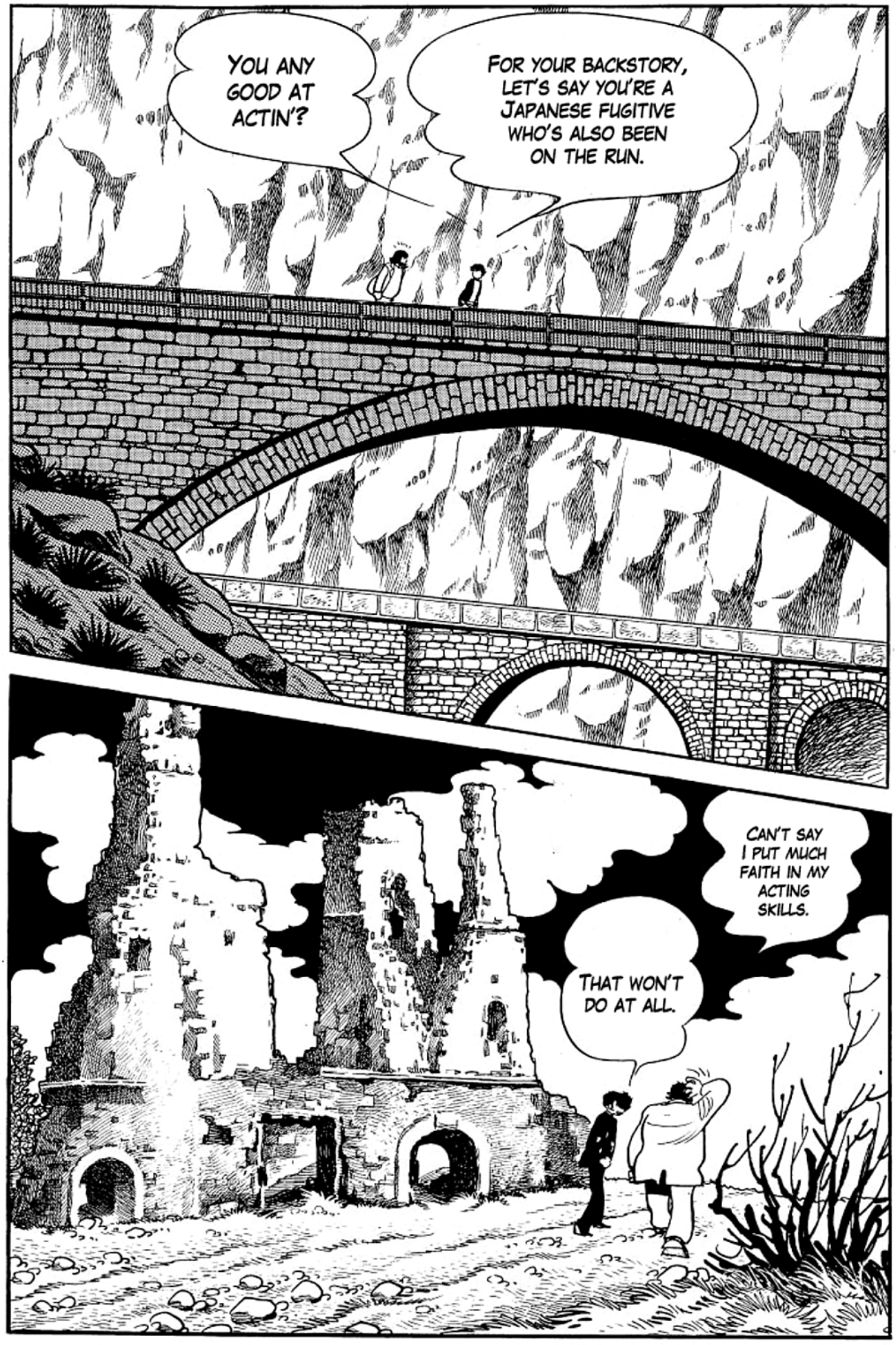
SSHH, IT'S ME. YOU ALRIGHT?

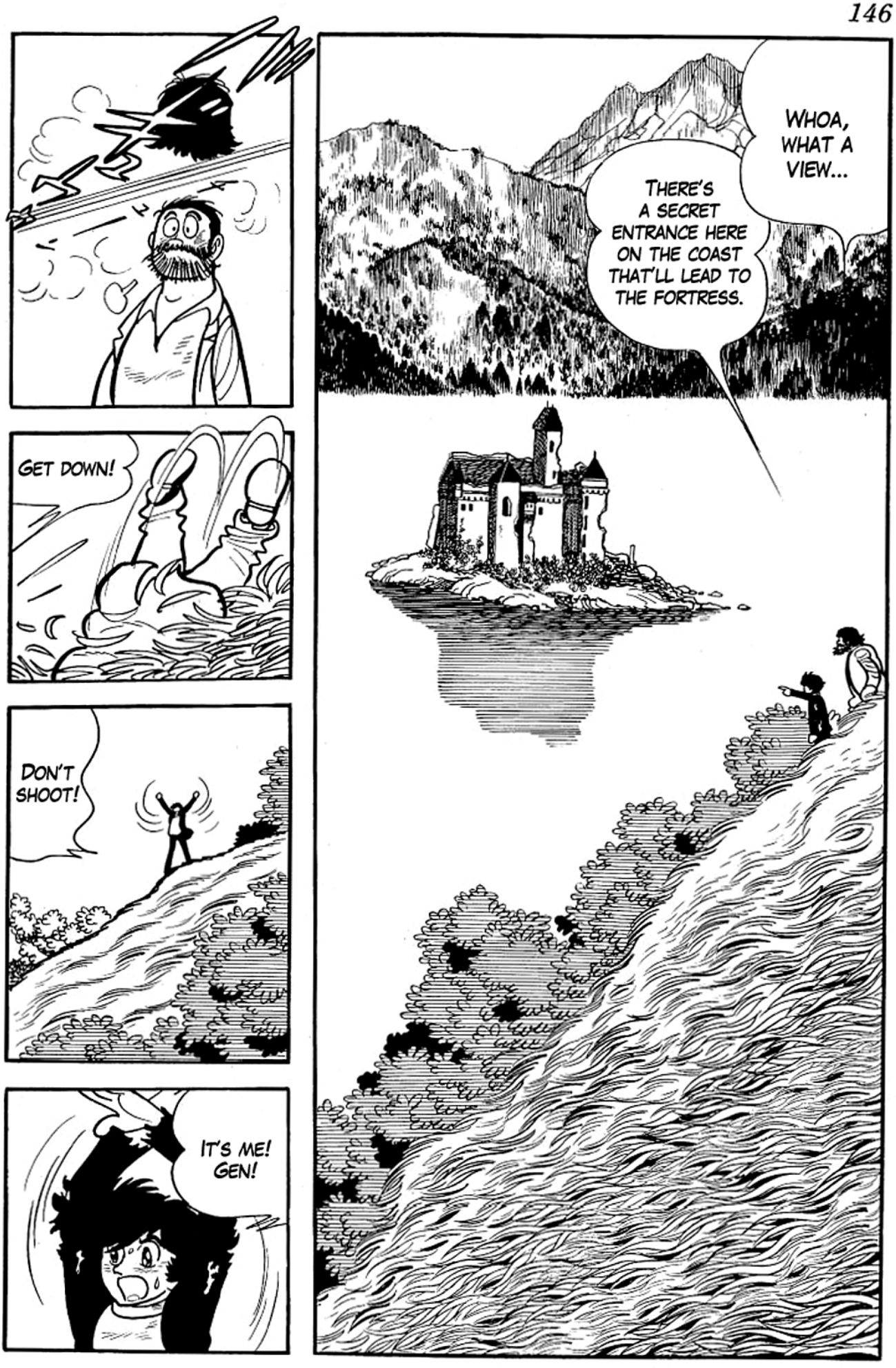

AMI THINKS I DIED AFTER FALLING OFF A CLIFF, AND I EXPECT SHE'D HAVE TOLD ALABASTER THAT BY NOW.

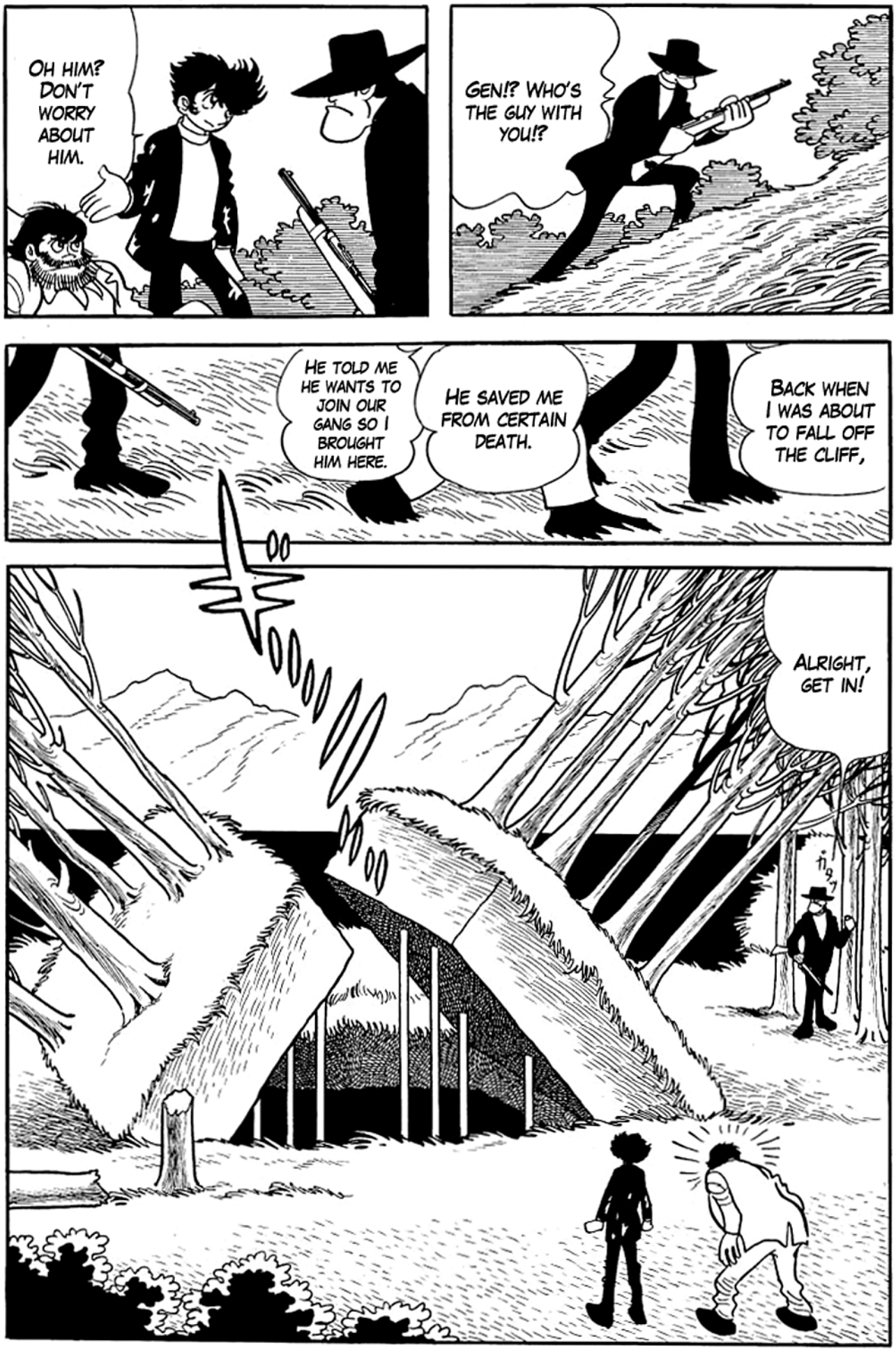

I'LL TELL THEM THAT I MANAGED TO SURVIVE AND HAVE SINCE BEEN ON THE RUN BEFORE FINALLY RETURNING TO THE BASE.

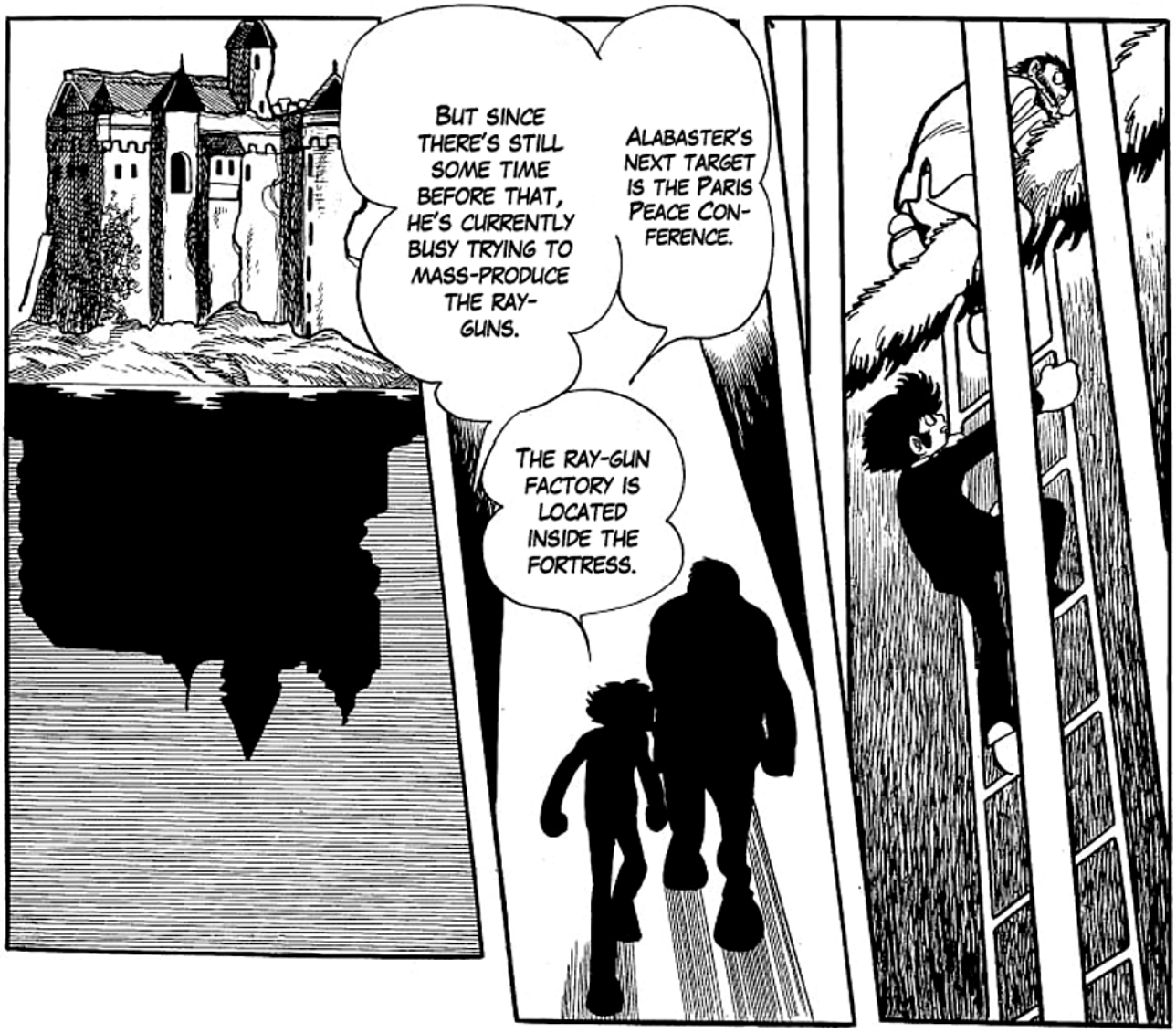

NOW LET'S GO.
AS FOR YOU, I'LL INTRODUCE YOU AS THE MAN WHO SAVED MY LIFE AND WANTS TO JOIN ALABASTER'S GANG.

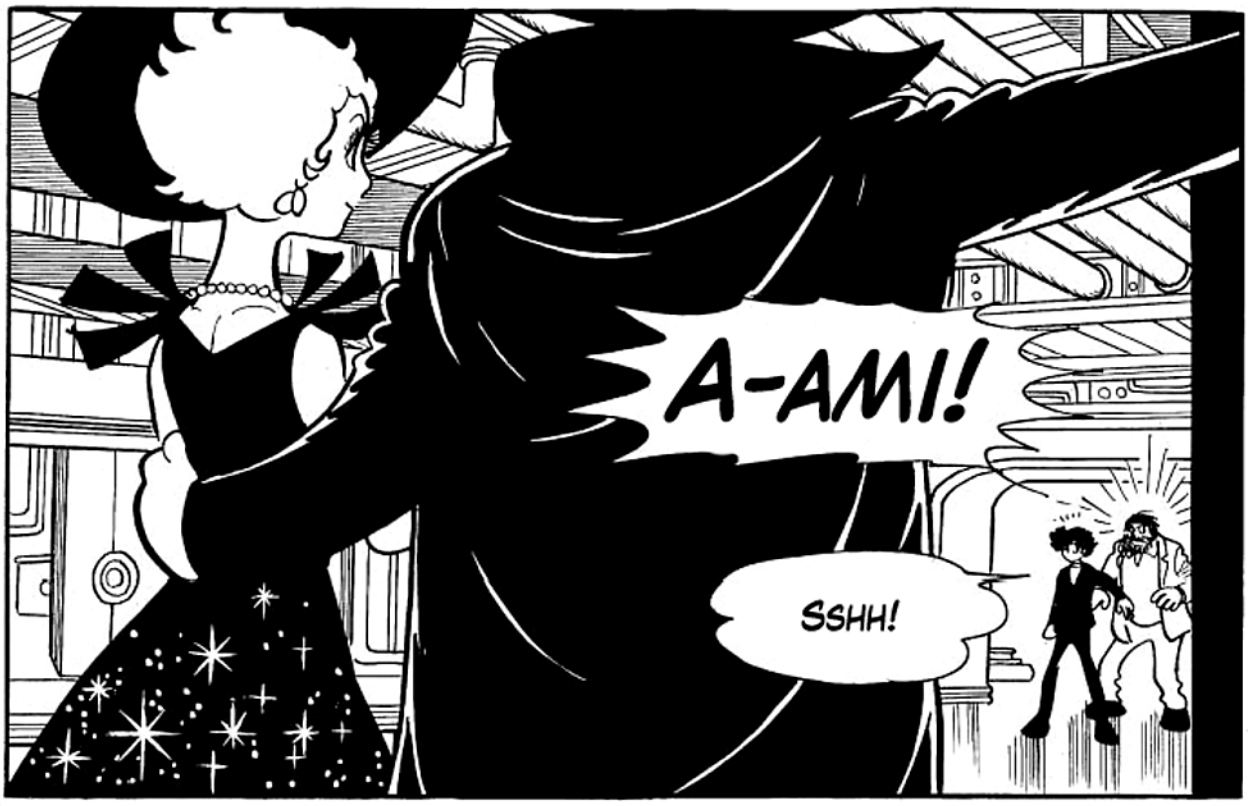
THE HIDEOUT'S ON A LAKE ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS OVER THERE. IT'S GOT TRAPS ALL AROUND IT TO PREVENT SOMEONE FROM JUST SNEAKING IN.
THEN HOW DO WE GET INSIDE?

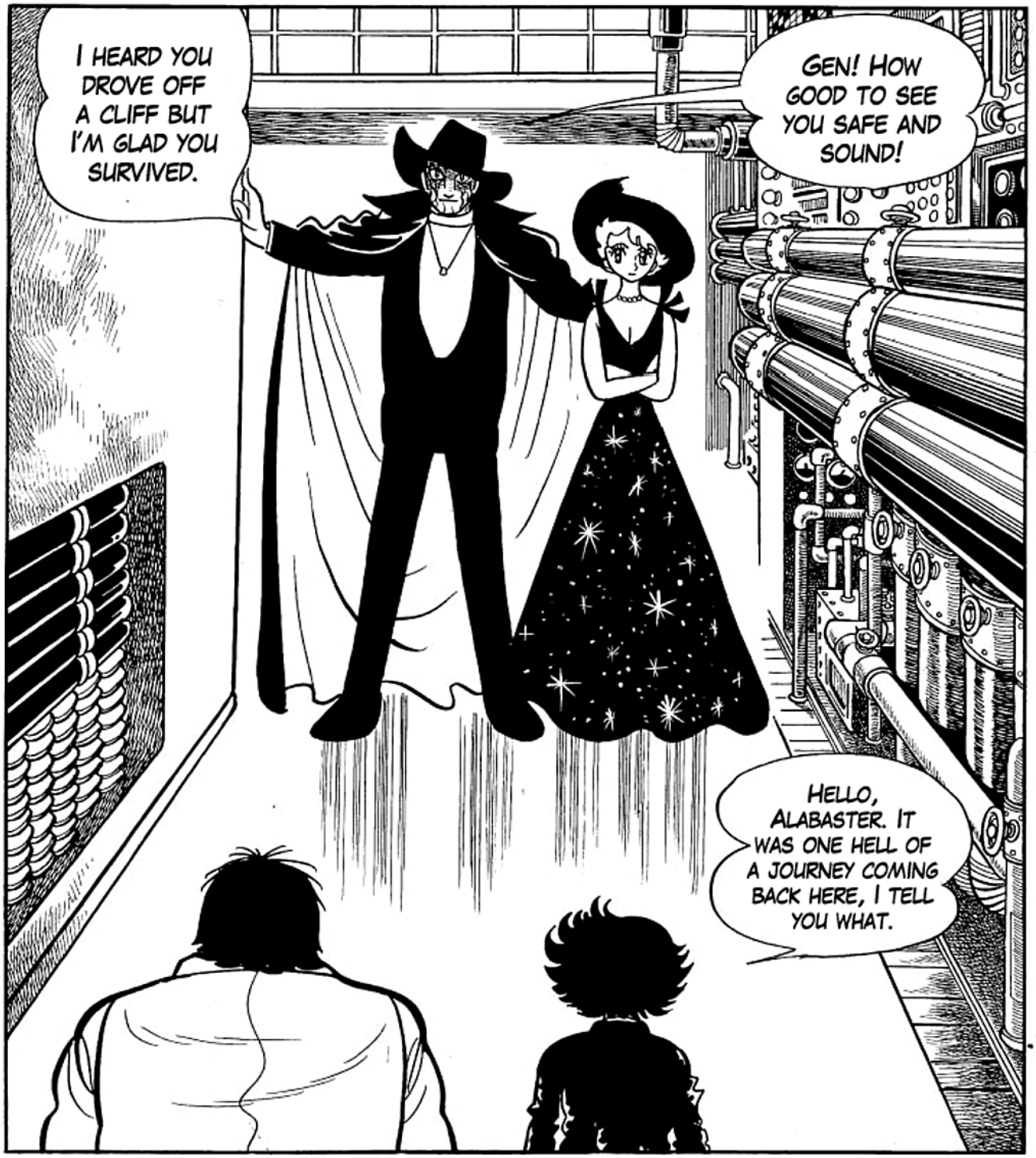

YOU ANY GOOD AT ACTIN'?
FOR YOUR BACKSTORY, LET'S SAY YOU'RE A JAPANESE FUGITIVE WHO'S ALSO BEEN ON THE RUN.
CAN'T SAY I PUT MUCH FAITH IN MY ACTING SKILLS.
THAT WON'T DO AT ALL.

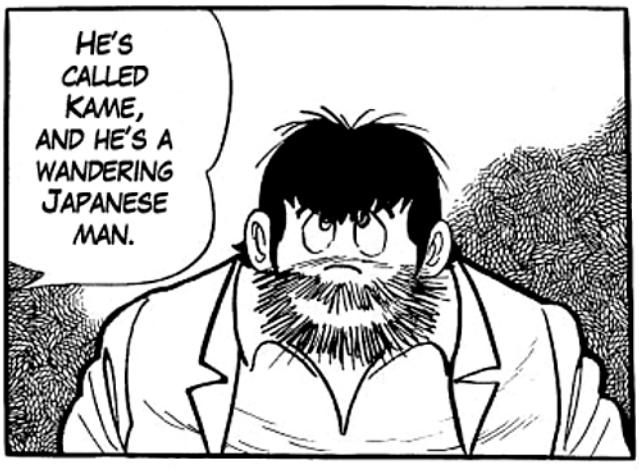

GET DOWN!
DON'T SHOOT!
IT'S ME! GEN!
WHOA, WHAT A VIEW...
THERE'S A SECRET ENTRANCE HERE ON THE COAST THAT'LL LEAD TO THE FORTRESS.

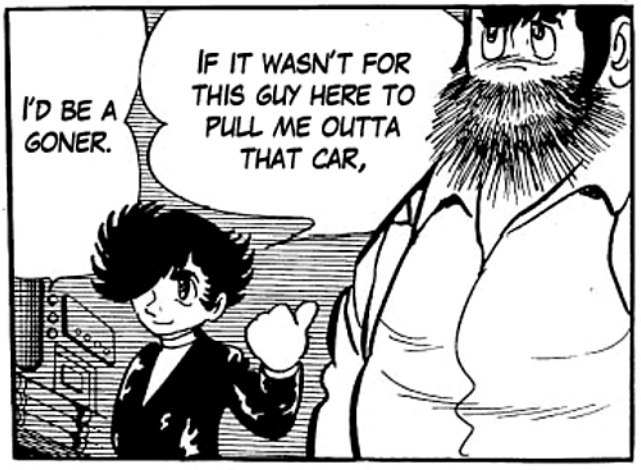

OH HIM? DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.
GEN!? WHO'S THE GUY WITH YOU!?
HE TOLD ME HE WANTS TO JOIN OUR GANG SO I BROUGHT HIM HERE.
HE SAVED ME FROM CERTAIN DEATH.
BACK WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO FALL OFF THE CLIFF,
ALRIGHT, GET IN!


But since there's still some time before that, he's currently busy trying to mass-produce the ray-guns.
Alabaster's next target is the Paris Peace Conference.
The ray-gun factory is located inside the fortress.

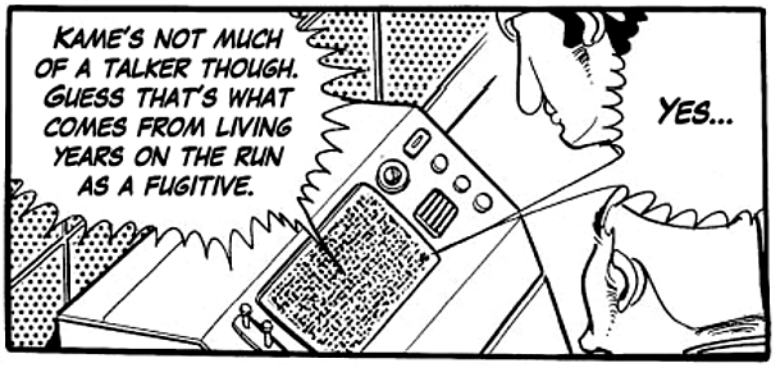

A-AMI!
Sshh!

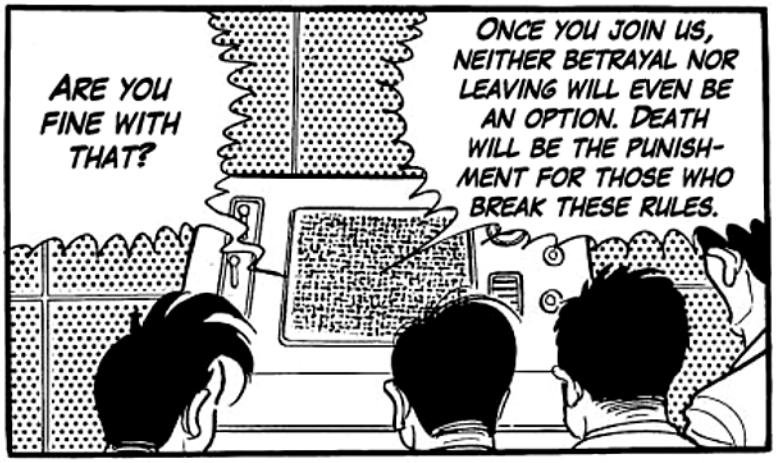

I HEARD YOU DROVE OFF A CLIFF BUT I'M GLAD YOU SURVIVED.
GEN! HOW GOOD TO SEE YOU SAFE AND SOUND!
HELLO, ALABASTER. IT WAS ONE HELL OF A JOURNEY COMING BACK HERE, I TELL YOU WHAT.


HE'S CALLED KAME, AND HE'S A WANDERING JAPANESE MAN.


IF IT WASN'T FOR THIS GUY HERE TO PULL ME OUTTA THAT CAR,
I'D BE A GONER.

I SEE... IS THAT TRUE?


KAME'S NOT MUCH OF A TALKER THOUGH. GUESS THAT'S WHAT COMES FROM LIVING YEARS ON THE RUN AS A FUGITIVE.
YES...


ARE YOU FINE WITH THAT?
ONCE YOU JOIN US, NEITHER BETRAYAL NOR LEAVING WILL EVEN BE AN OPTION. DEATH WILL BE THE PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE WHO BREAK THESE RULES.

YES.

GOOD. ALRIGHT THEN, TAKE HIM TO HIS ROOM, GEN.

I BROUGHT HIM HERE BECAUSE HE SAID HE WANTED TO JOIN OUR ORGANIZATION.

HE'S A DANGER-OUS ONE.
AND ON GEN AS WELL.
KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HIM.
WOULD YOU MIND SHOWING ME A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR FACE?
KAME!
WHERE IN JAPAN DID YOU SAY YOU WERE BORN?
.....
I... CAN'T SAY... FORGIVE ME.

TRY YOUR BEST TO BE INCONSPICUOUS UNTIL WE MOVE IN TO TAKE HER AWAY.
WHEW, THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL. IF SHE RECOGNIZED WHO YOU WERE BACK THERE JUST NOW, WE'D BE TOAST.

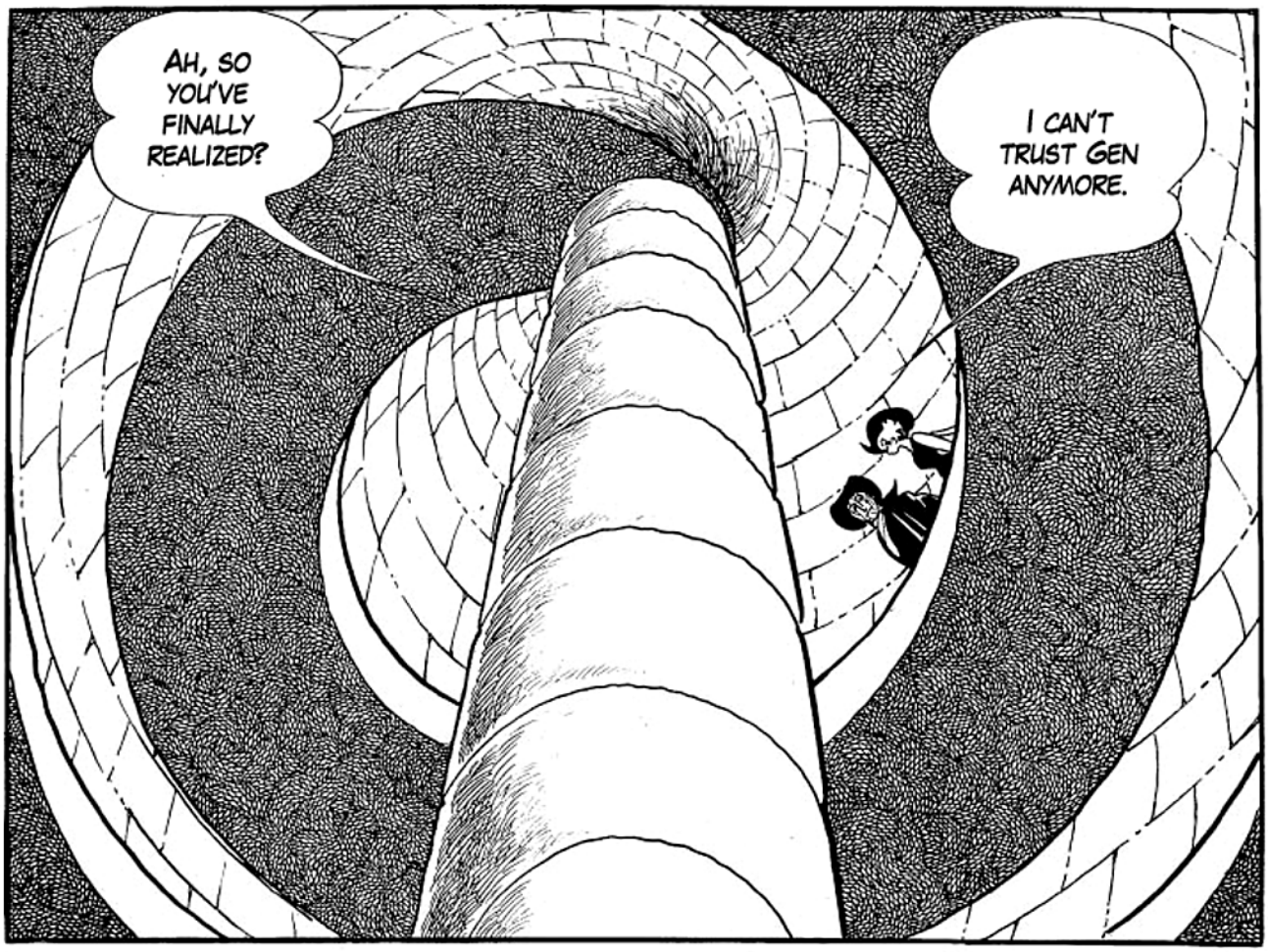
JUST BEFORE OUR ESCAPE. THAT'LL BE OUR CHANCE.

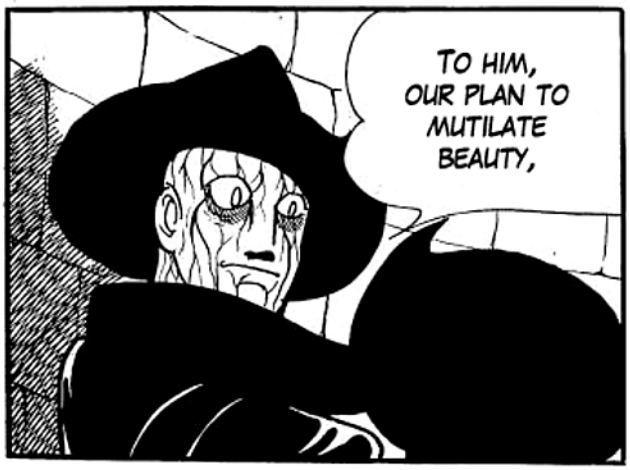
YOU THINK IT'LL REALLY WORK?

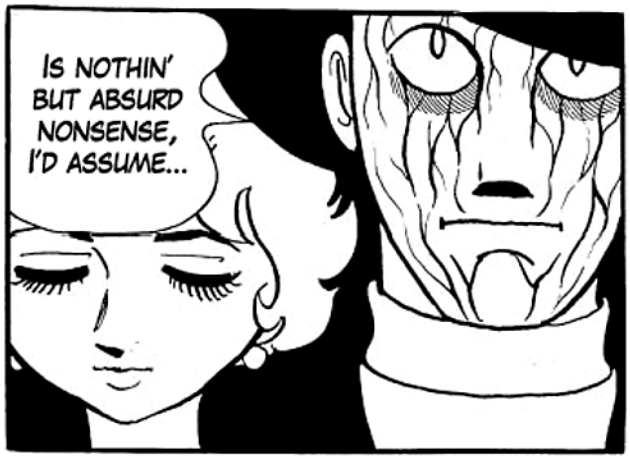
CAN'T SAY I'M ALL THAT CONFIDENT BUT IT COULD BE WORSE.
IT SEEMS LIKE AMI HASN'T YET TOLD ALABASTER ABOUT MY WAVERING LOYALTIES...

THE MACHINES AREN'T READY TO RUN YET, BUT SOON THEY'LL BE CHURNING OUT HUNDREDS OF RAY-GUNS.
THAT'S TERRIBLE! WHEN DO WE DESTROY IT?

WHAT'S THIS ROOM FOR?
THIS IS THE RAY-GUN FACTORY.


AH, SO YOU'VE FINALLY REALIZED?
I CAN'T TRUST GEN ANYMORE.

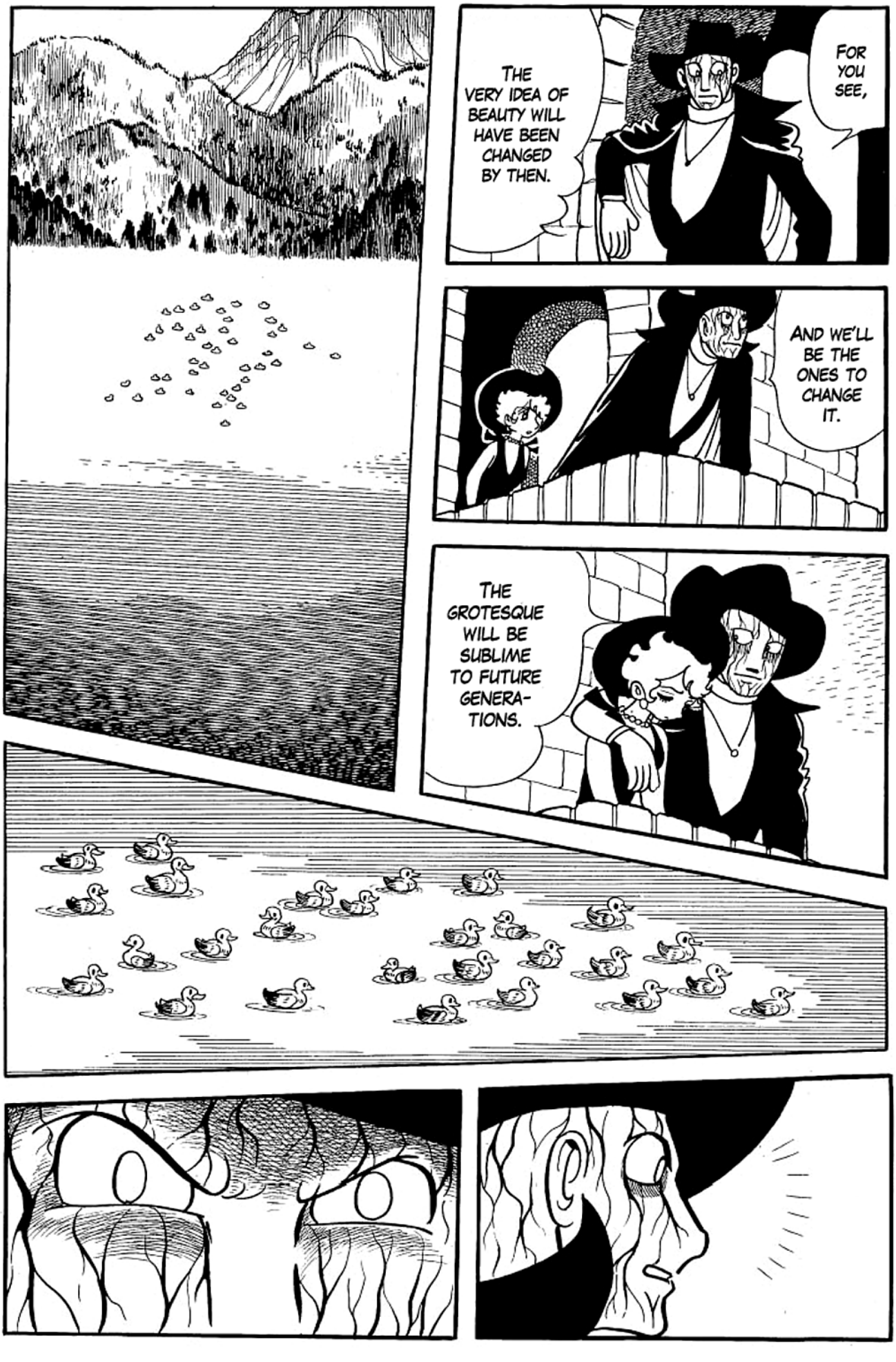

TO HIM, OUR PLAN TO MUTILATE BEAUTY,

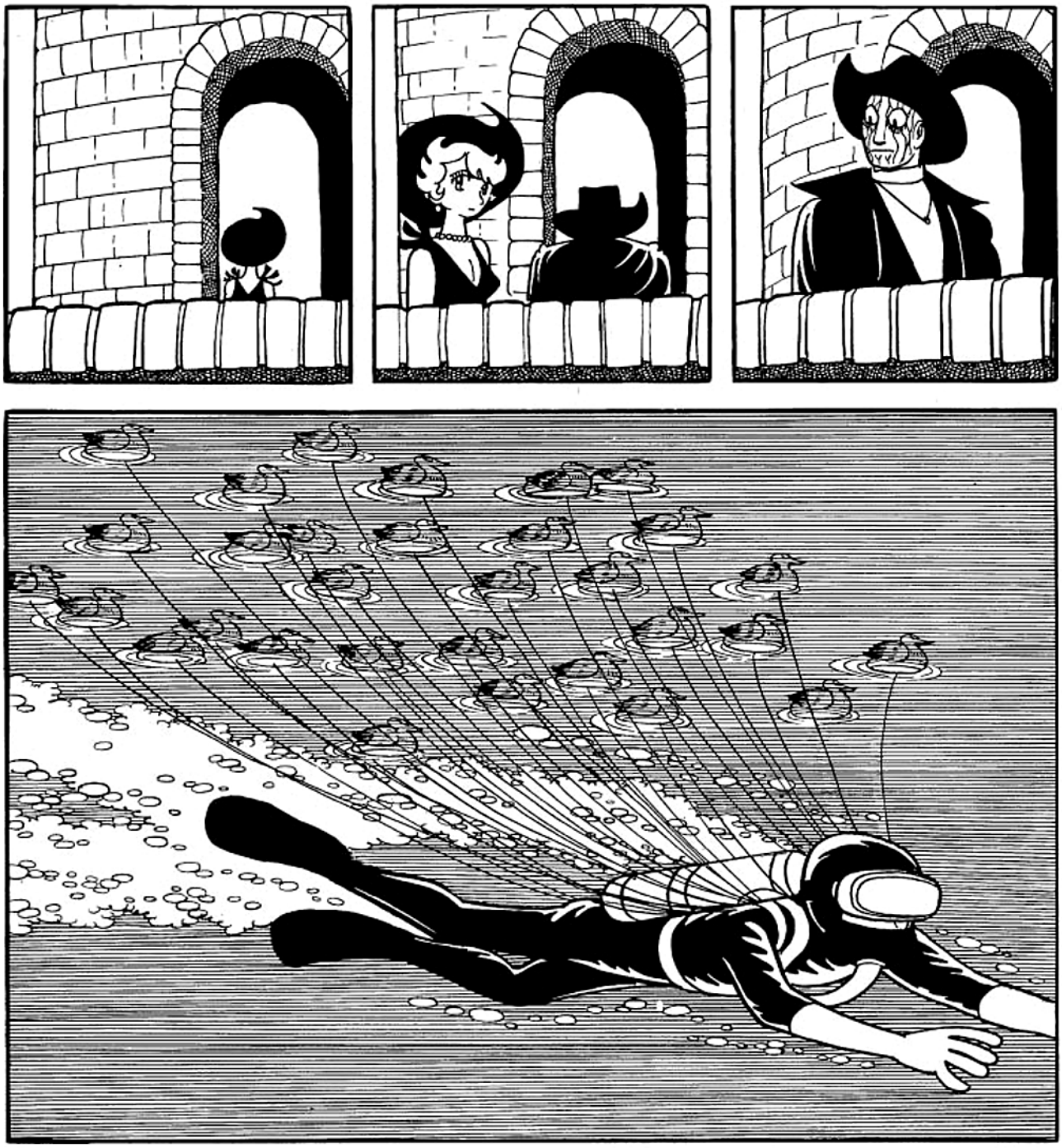

IS NOTHIN' BUT ABSURD NONSENSE, I'D ASSUME...

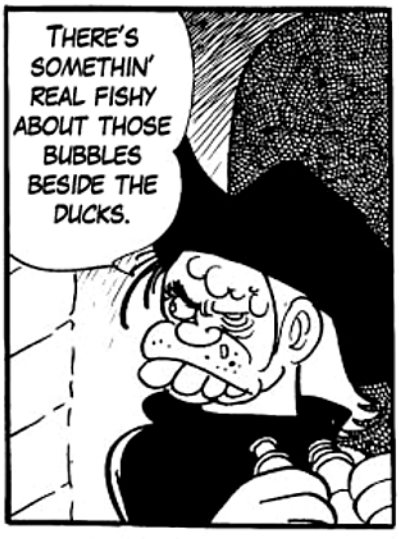
HE LIVES IN ANOTHER WORLD APART FROM OURS.
A "NORMAL" LIKE HIM CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND OUR FEELINGS.

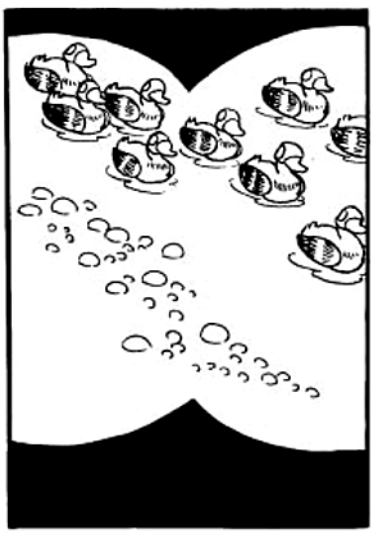
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU TODAY, AMI.

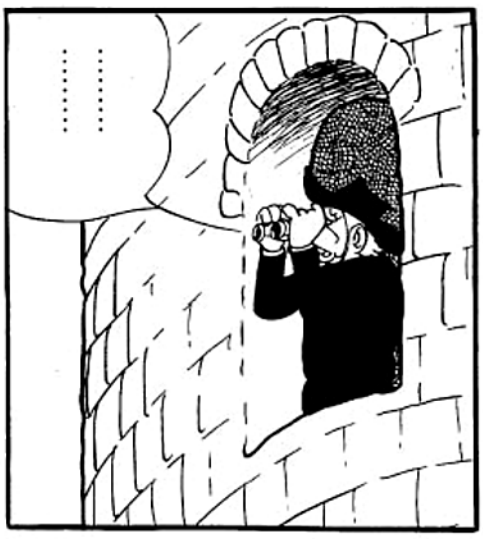
A CITY UNLIKE ANY THAT HAS COME BEFORE. A CITY WITH THE MOST ASYMMETRICAL, UNSHAPELY, AND BIZARRE ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS.
THIS IS THE MODEL FOR ALABASTOPIA, A CAPITAL CITY FOR THE COMING NEW AGE.
I DOUBT THERE HAS EVER BEEN A CASTLE MORE GROTESQUE.
ITS DESIGN WAS PARTLY BASED ON THE DUNG FLY.
THIS WILL BE THE PALACE WHERE YOU'LL LIVE.
BUT IN A 100 YEARS, OR MAYBE EVEN A 1000 YEARS, THE PEOPLE WILL LOOK BACK AND SAY HONESTLY...
THAT THIS WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY TO HAVE EVER EXISTED.


FOR YOU SEE,
THE VERY IDEA OF BEAUTY WILL HAVE BEEN CHANGED BY THEN.
AND WE'LL BE THE ONES TO CHANGE IT.
THE GROTESQUE WILL BE SUBLIME TO FUTURE GENERA-TIONS.




THERE'S SOMETHIN' REAL FISHY ABOUT THOSE BUBBLES BESIDE THE DUCKS.

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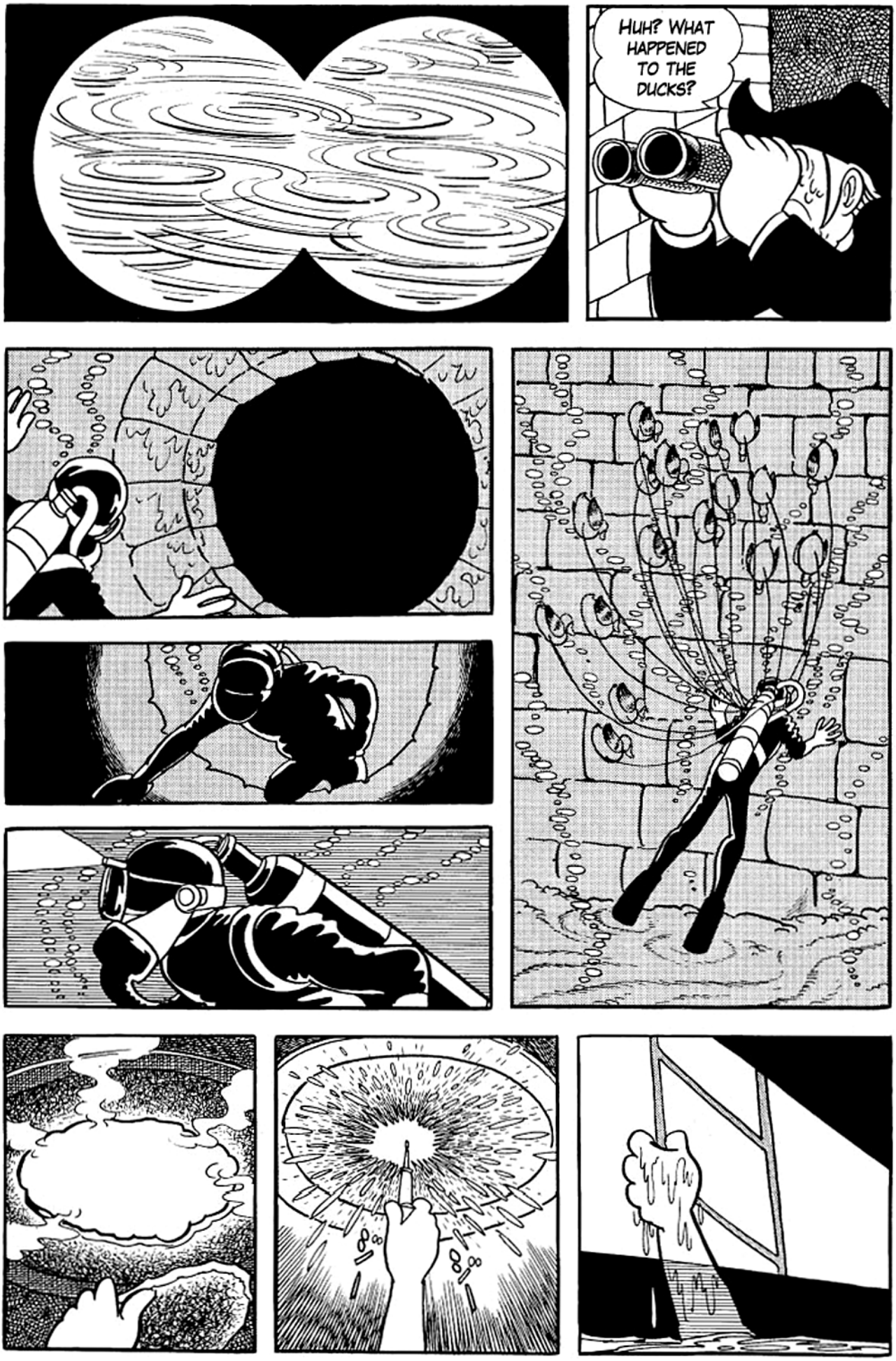
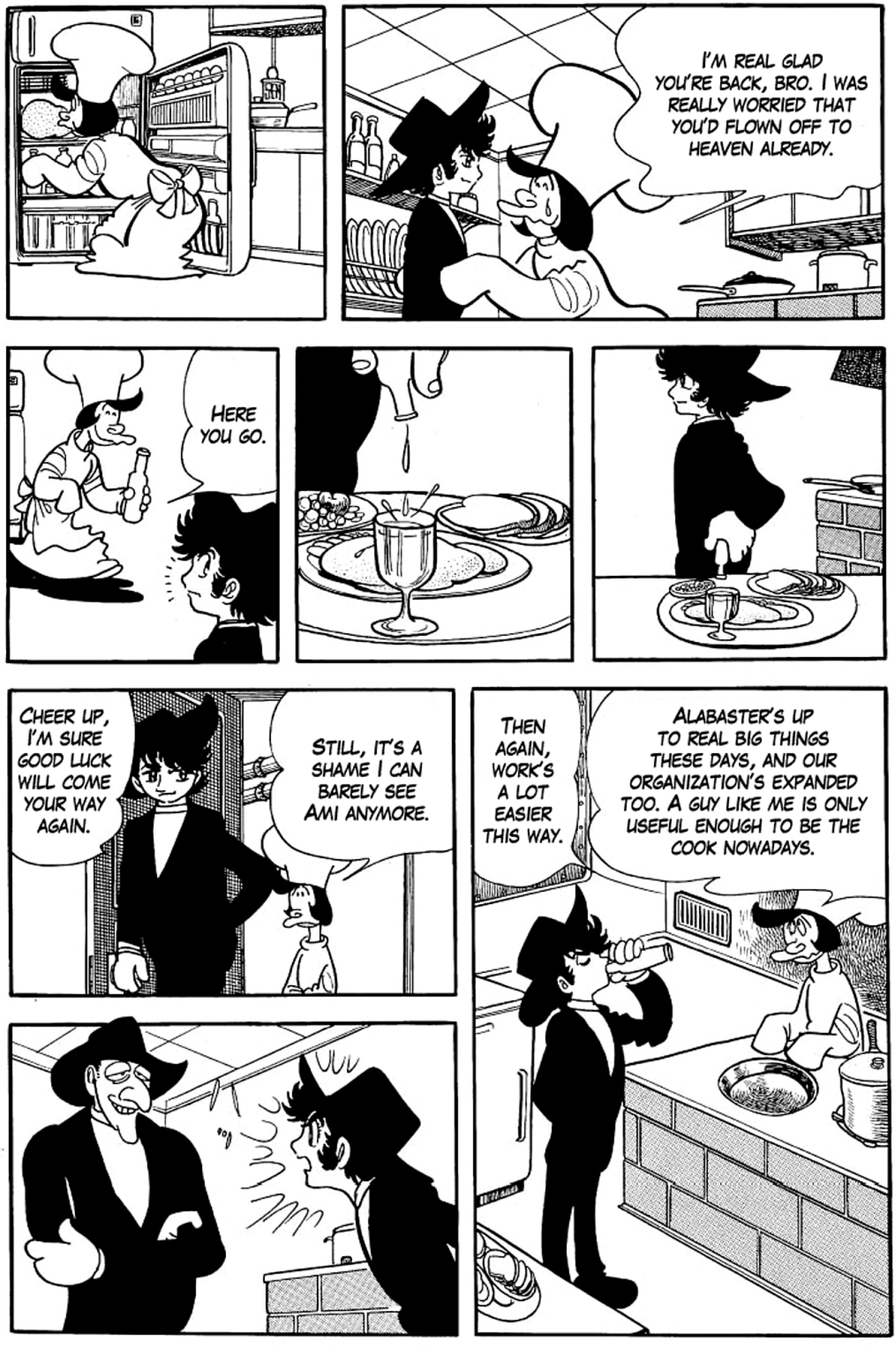
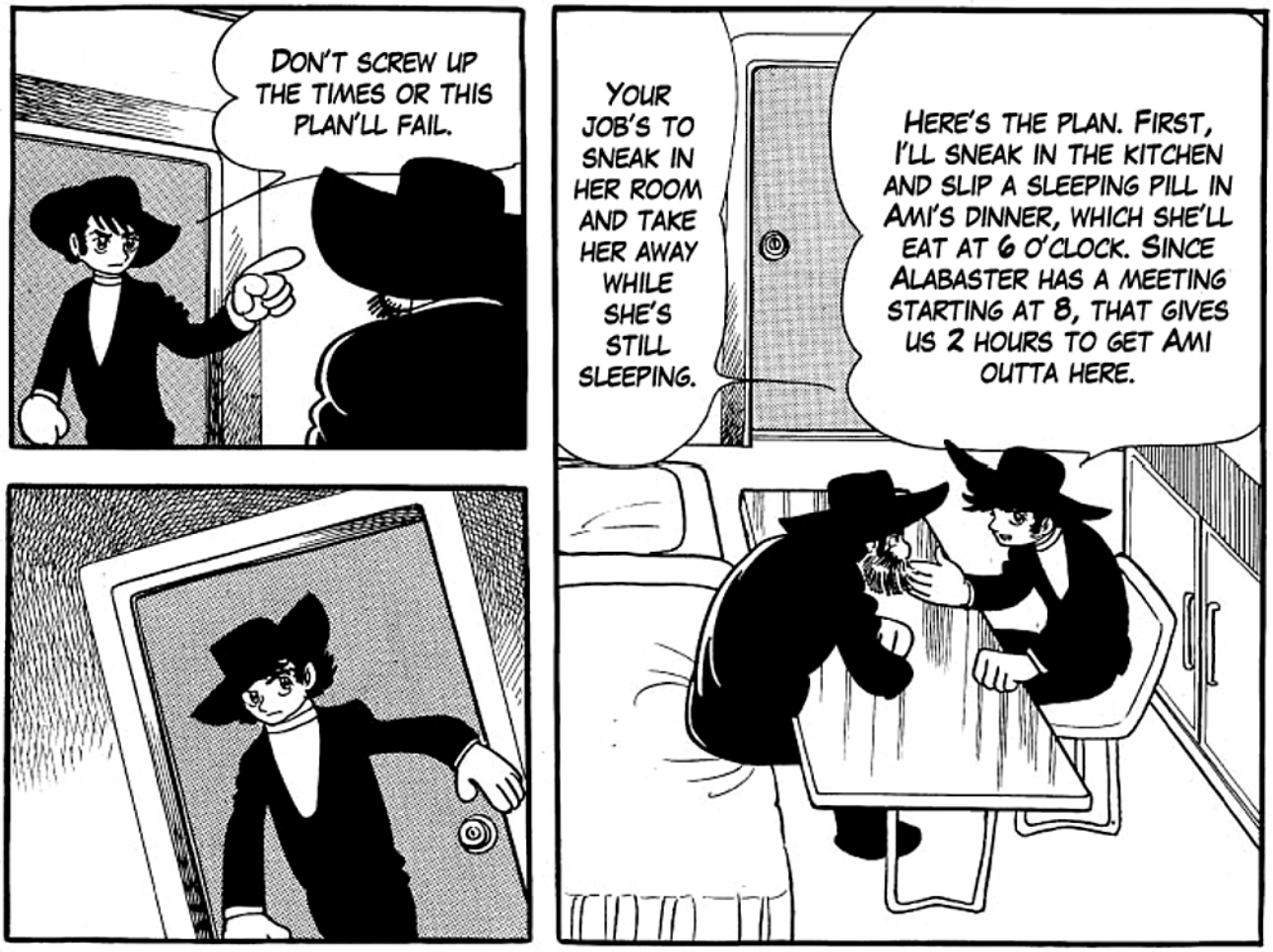
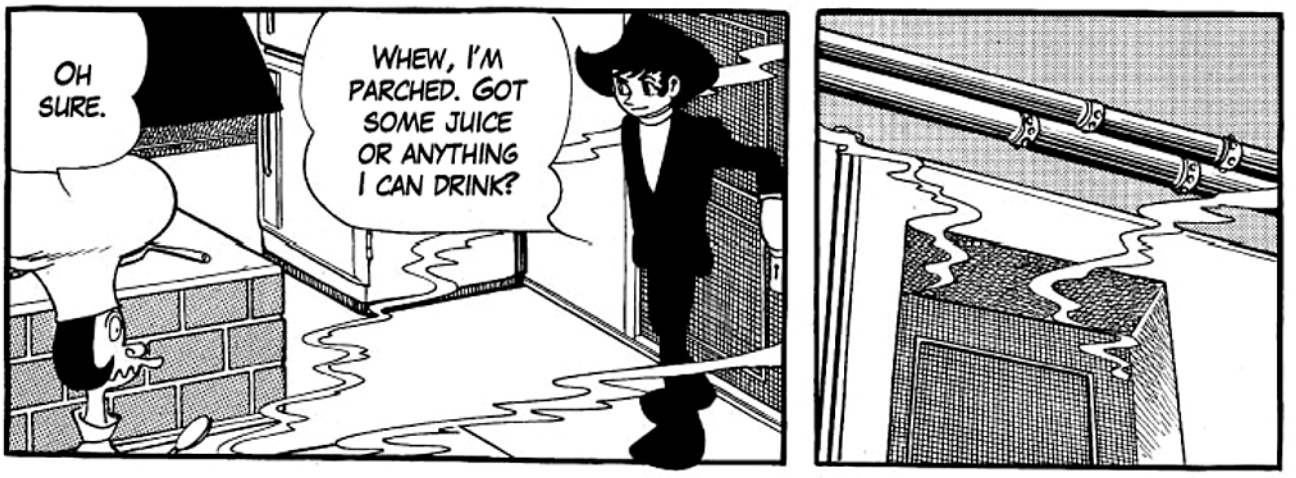

HUH? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DUCKS?

Chapter 10
Plan for Escape


I'M REAL GLAD YOU'RE BACK, BRO. I WAS REALLY WORRIED THAT YOU'D FLOWN OFF TO HEAVEN ALREADY.
HERE YOU GO.
CHEER UP, I'M SURE GOOD LUCK WILL COME YOUR WAY AGAIN.
STILL, IT'S A SHAME I CAN BARELY SEE AMI ANYMORE.
THEN AGAIN, WORK'S A LOT EASIER THIS WAY.
ALABASTER'S UP TO REAL BIG THINGS THESE DAYS, AND OUR ORGANIZATION'S EXPANDED TOO. A GUY LIKE ME IS ONLY USEFUL ENOUGH TO BE THE COOK NOWADAYS.


DON'T SCREW UP THE TIMES OR THIS PLAN'LL FAIL.
YOUR JOB'S TO SNEAK IN HER ROOM AND TAKE HER AWAY WHILE SHE'S STILL SLEEPING.
HERE'S THE PLAN. FIRST, I'LL SNEAK IN THE KITCHEN AND SLIP A SLEEPING PILL IN AMI'S DINNER, WHICH SHE'LL EAT AT 6 O'CLOCK. SINCE ALABASTER HAS A MEETING STARTING AT 8, THAT GIVES US 2 HOURS TO GET AMI OUTTA HERE.


OH SURE.
WHEW, I'M PARCHED. GOT SOME JUICE OR ANYTHING I CAN DRINK?

WHAT'D YA SLIP IN AMI'S DRINK JUST NOW...?
HEH HEH HEH...
YOU SON OF A...
UGH...
OOF!

I'M HURT.
YOU KNOW ME AND THE OTHER GUYS WOULD ALWAYS LISTEN TO YOU.
I THOUGHT WE WERE REAL CLOSE, Y'KNOW?
SORRY...
WHY DIDN'CHA LET ME IN ON WHAT YOU WERE UP TO?
BRO, WHAT'S GOING ON...?
THE TRUTH IS...
SORRY FOR HIDING THINGS FROM YOU AND THE OTHER GUYS...
TIME FOR YOUR DINNER, MISS.
UGHH...

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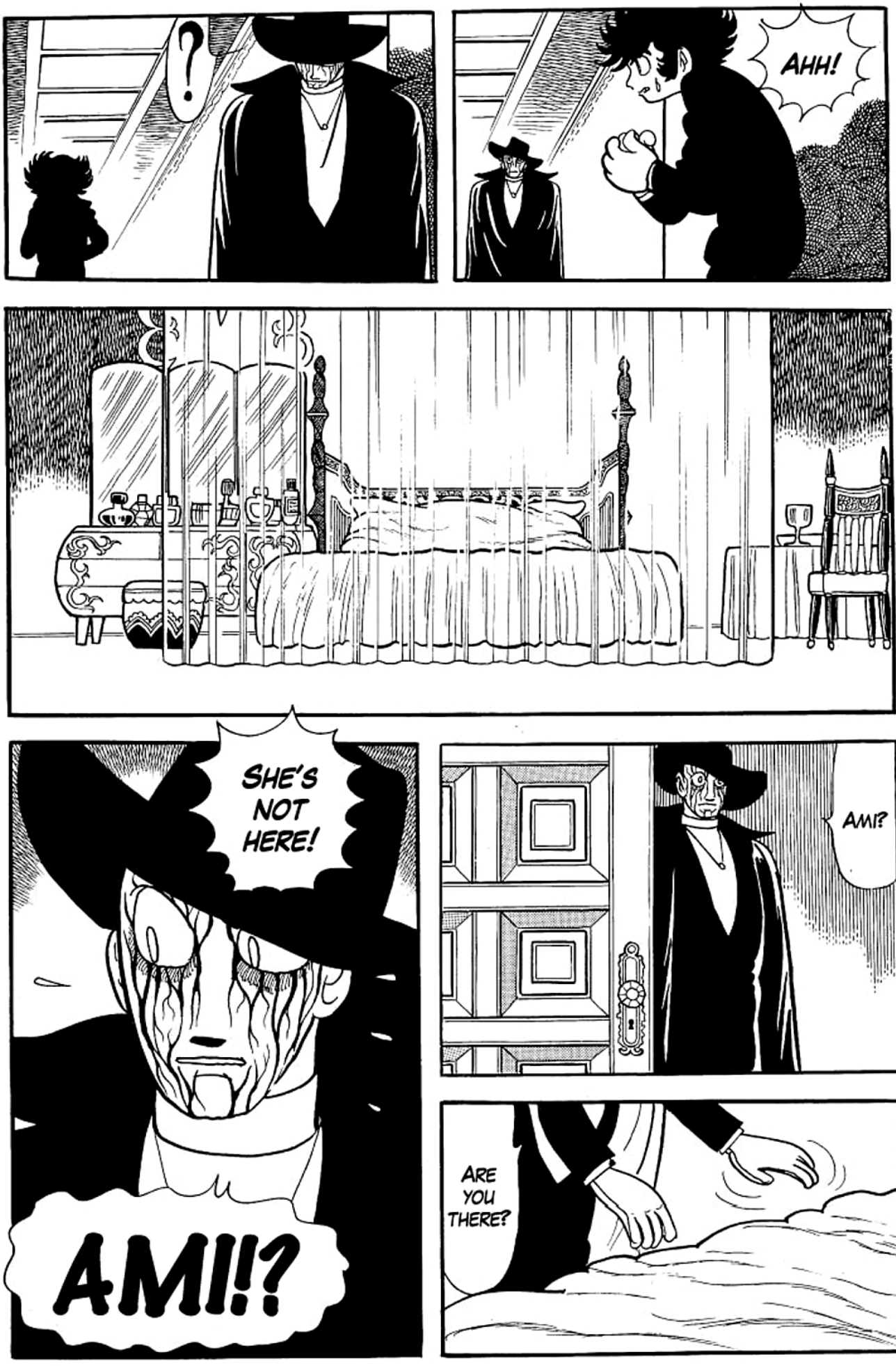
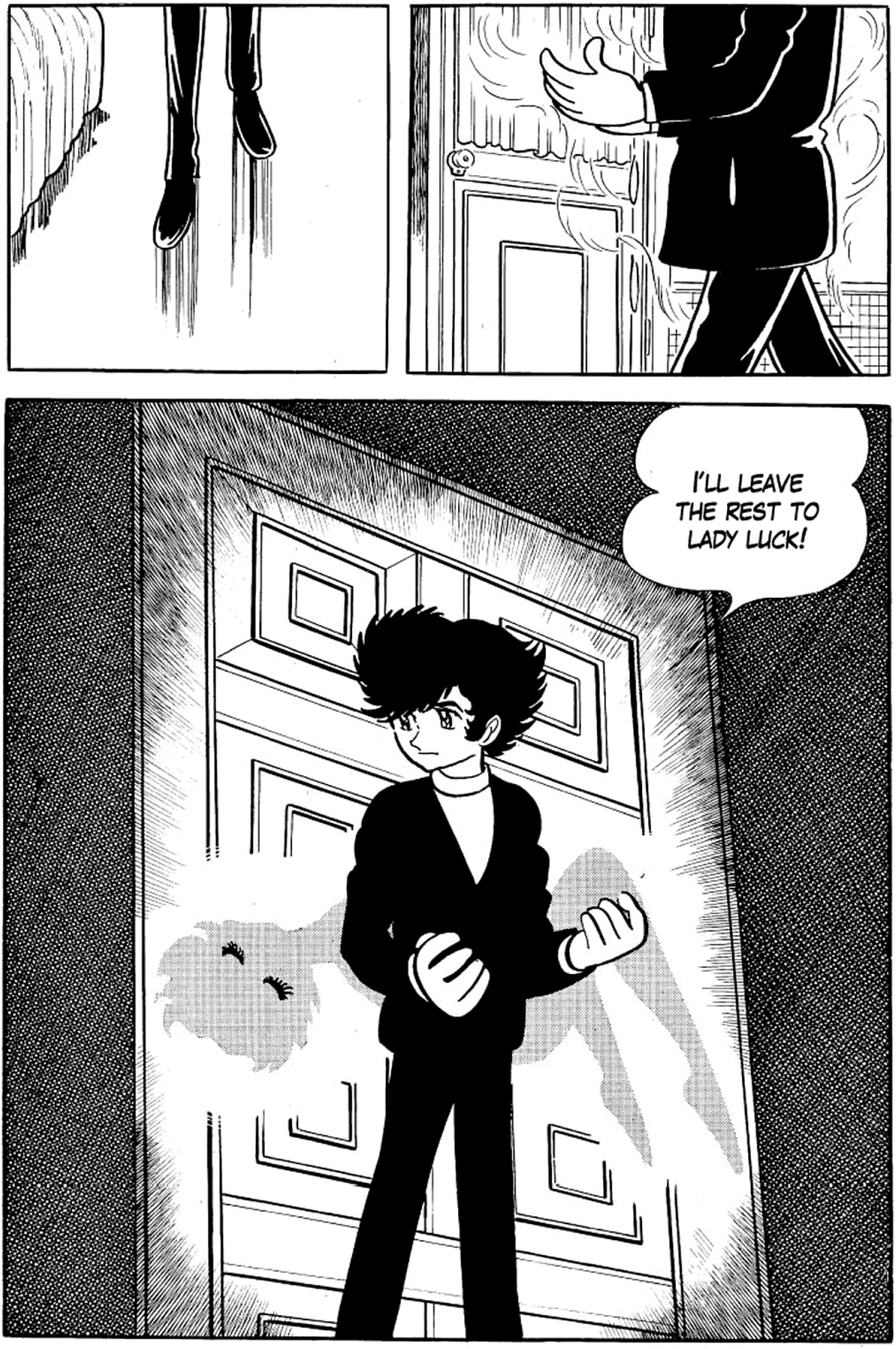
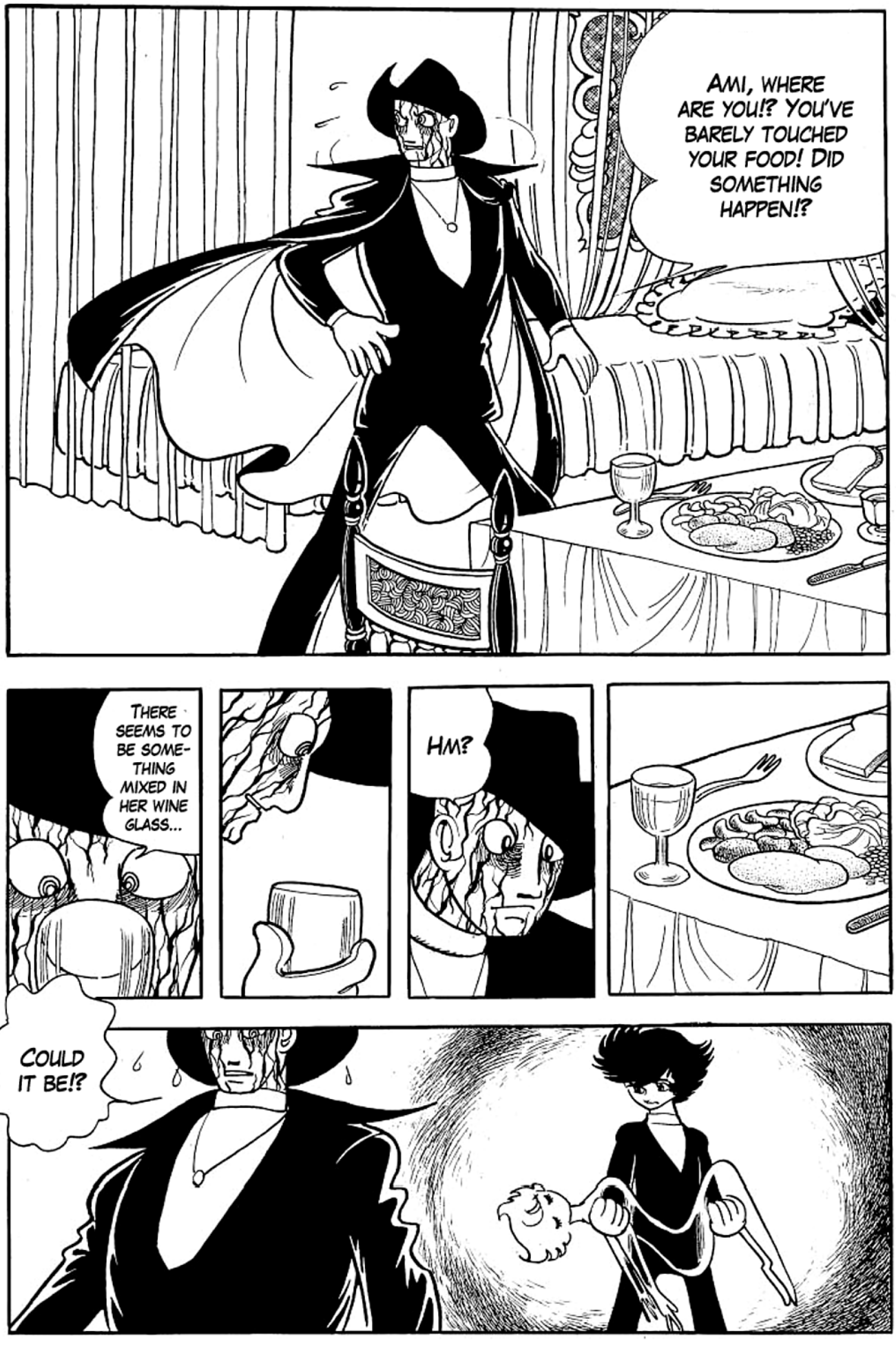
AMI, FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO. I'M ONLY DOING THIS TO SAVE YOU.

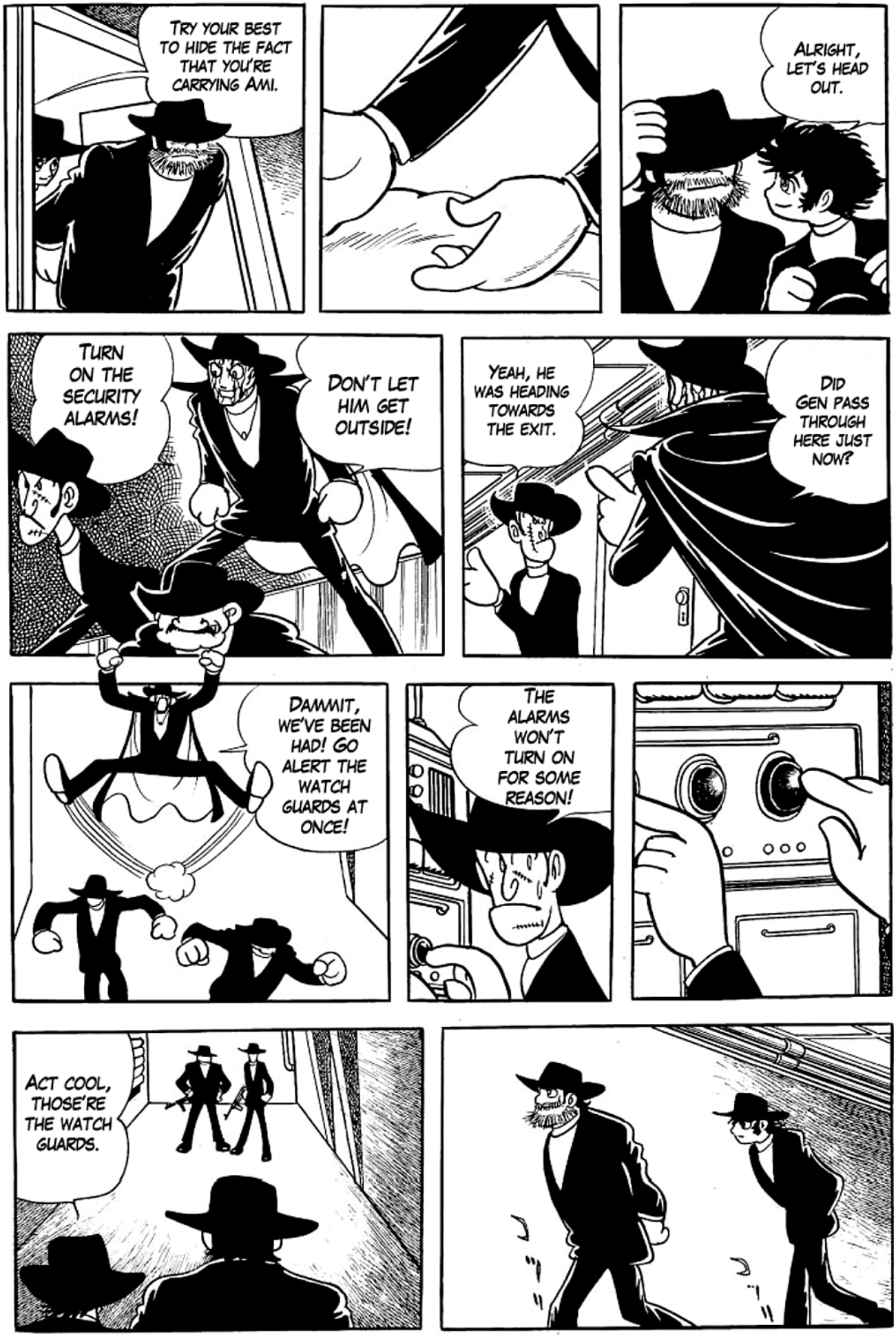
WHOA!

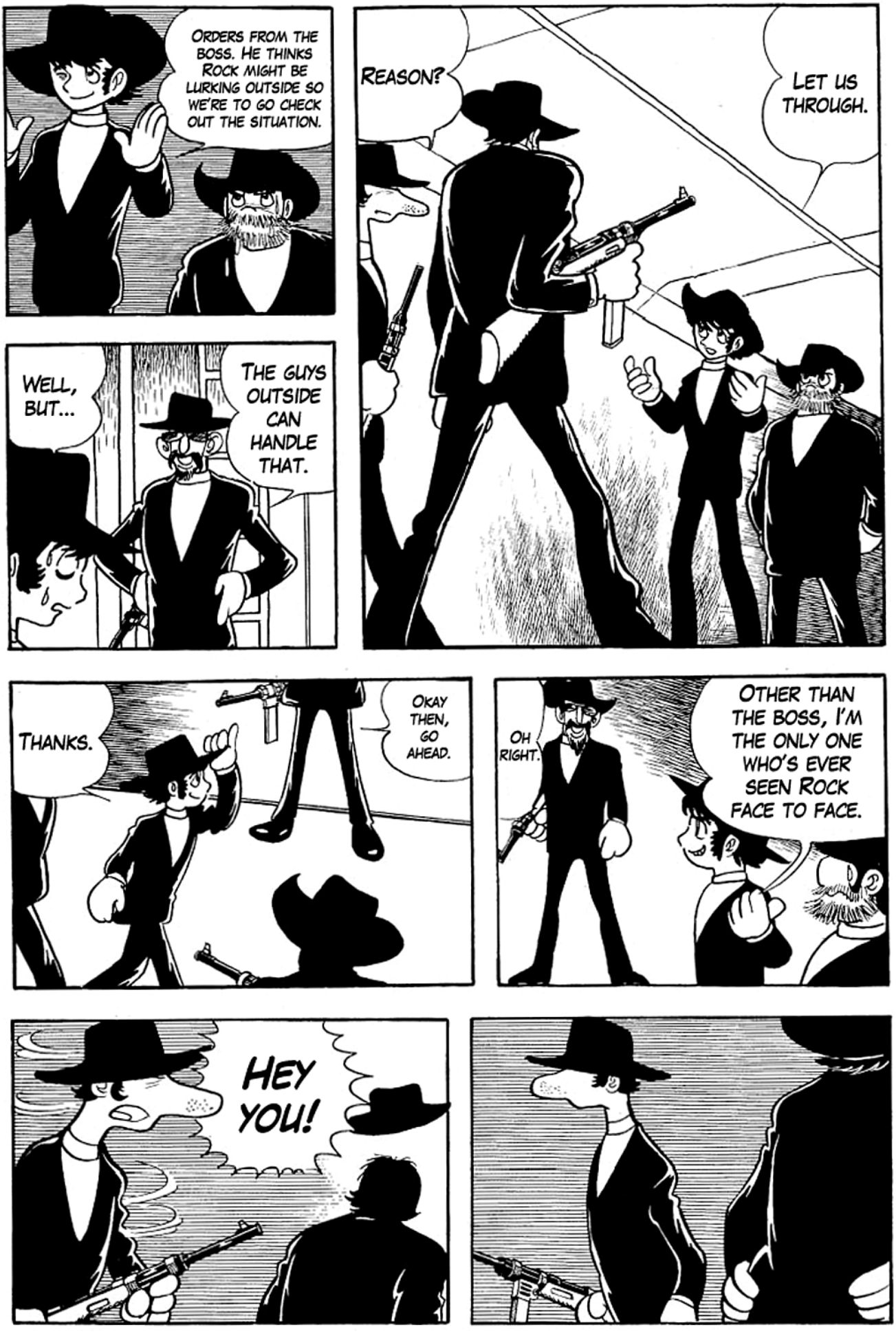

?
AHH!
SHE'S NOT HERE!
AMI!?
AMI?
ARE YOU THERE?


I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO LADY LUCK!


AMI, WHERE ARE YOU!? YOU'VE BARELY TOUCHED YOUR FOOD! DID SOMETHING HAPPEN!?
THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING MIXED IN HER WINE GLASS...
HM?
COULD IT BE!?

NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO GET HER OUT FROM HERE.
WHEW...
AMI...
SHE'LL BE ASLEEP FOR ANOTHER HOUR.
SHE'S FINE.
IT'S ME.
HOW'S AMI?
PRETTY GOOD. WE MANAGED TO TAKE OUT 17-18 SECURITY ALARMS.
HOW'S THE SITUATION ON YOUR END?
DON'T WORRY, THESE GUYS ARE LIKE MY SUBORDI-NATES.

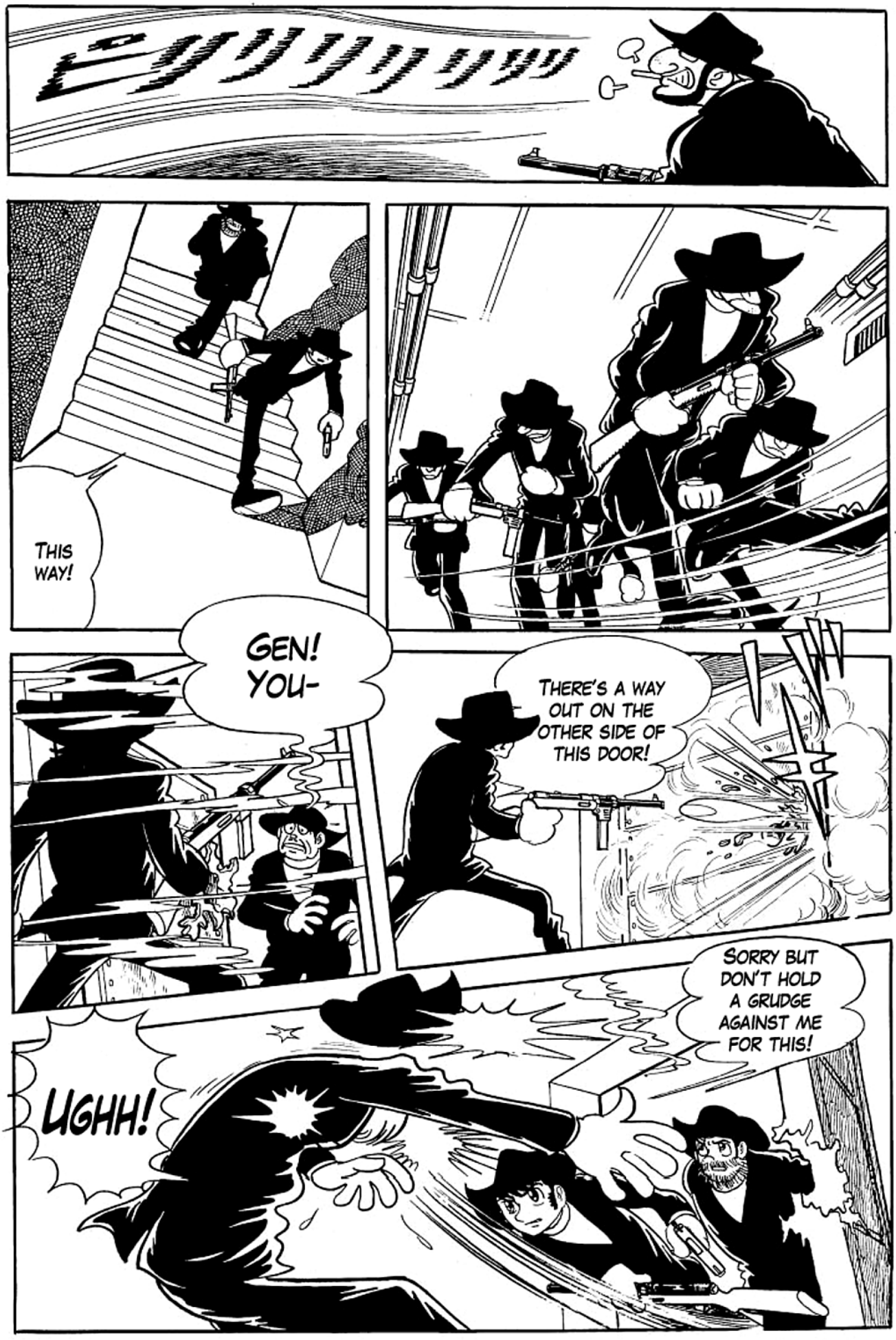

TRY YOUR BEST TO HIDE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE CARRYING AMI.
ALRIGHT, LET'S HEAD OUT.
TURN ON THE SECURITY ALARMS!
DON'T LET HIM GET OUTSIDE!
YEAH, HE WAS HEADING TOWARDS THE EXIT.
DID GEN PASS THROUGH HERE JUST NOW?
DAMMIT, WE'VE BEEN HAD! GO ALERT THE WATCH GUARDS AT ONCE!
THE ALARMS WON'T TURN ON FOR SOME REASON!
ACT COOL, THOSE'RE THE WATCH GUARDS.


ORDERS FROM THE BOSS. HE THINKS ROCK MIGHT BE LURKING OUTSIDE SO WE'RE TO GO CHECK OUT THE SITUATION.
REASON?
LET US THROUGH.
WELL, BUT...
THE GUYS OUTSIDE CAN HANDLE THAT.
THANKS.
OKAY THEN, GO AHEAD.
OH RIGHT.
OTHER THAN THE BOSS, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S EVER SEEN ROCK FACE TO FACE.
HEY YOU!

YOU'RE A QUEER ONE...
I SMELL WOMEN'S PERFUME FROM YOU...
STOP RIGHT THERE!
DON'T TELL ME YOU GUYS ARE SECRETLY GOING OUT FOR A HOT DATE NOW? HAHAHA.
WHEW...
DON'T LET THOSE 2 OUT-SIDE! BOSS' ORDERS!
HEY!
DAMN IT!

ガン
THEY'VE SHUT US IN!
UGH!
AGHH!
WE'LL USE ANOTHER EXIT!
LOOKS LIKE ALABASTER'S FOUND OUT SOMEHOW!

TAKE THIS!
AGHH!
QUICKLY! TO THE ROOM OVER THERE!
STOP THEM!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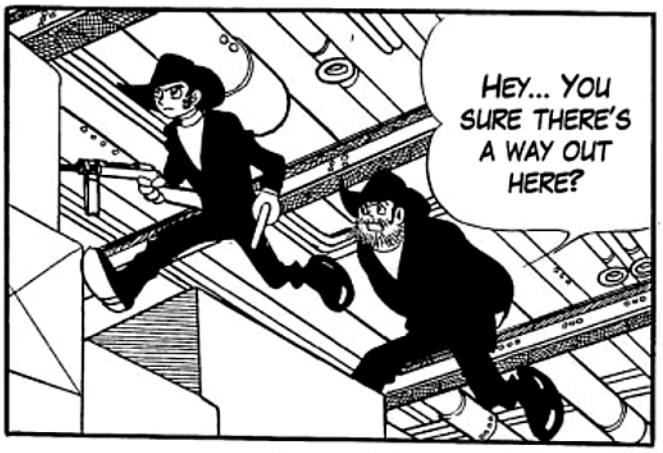
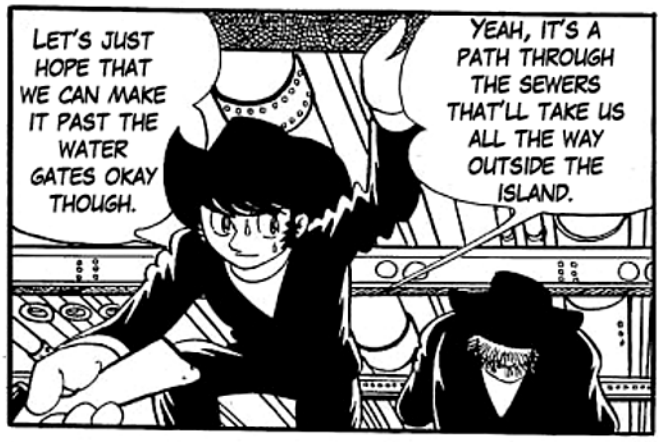
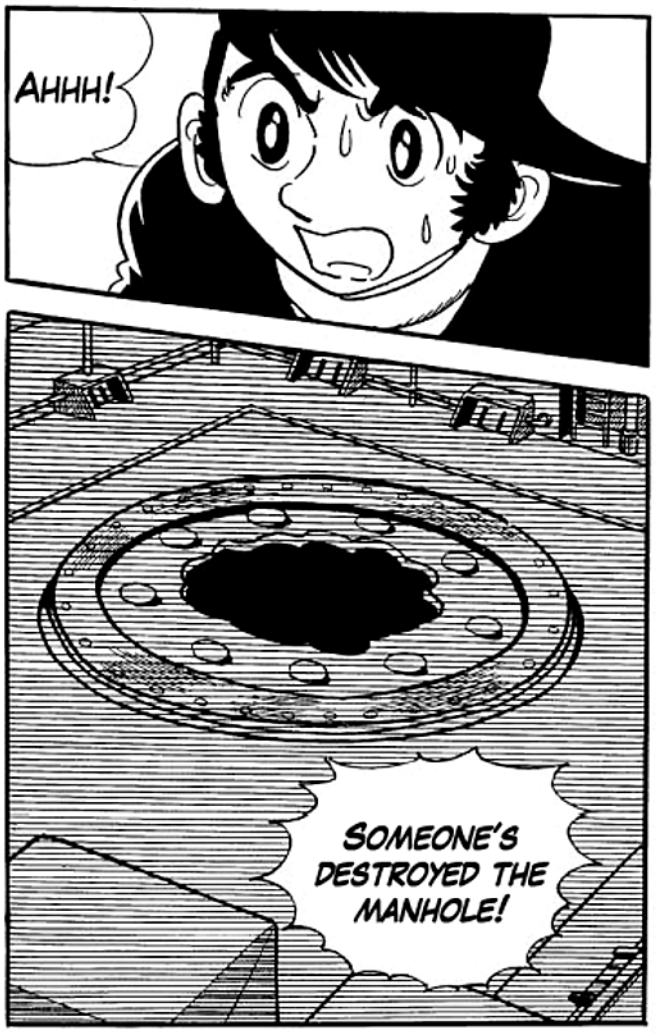
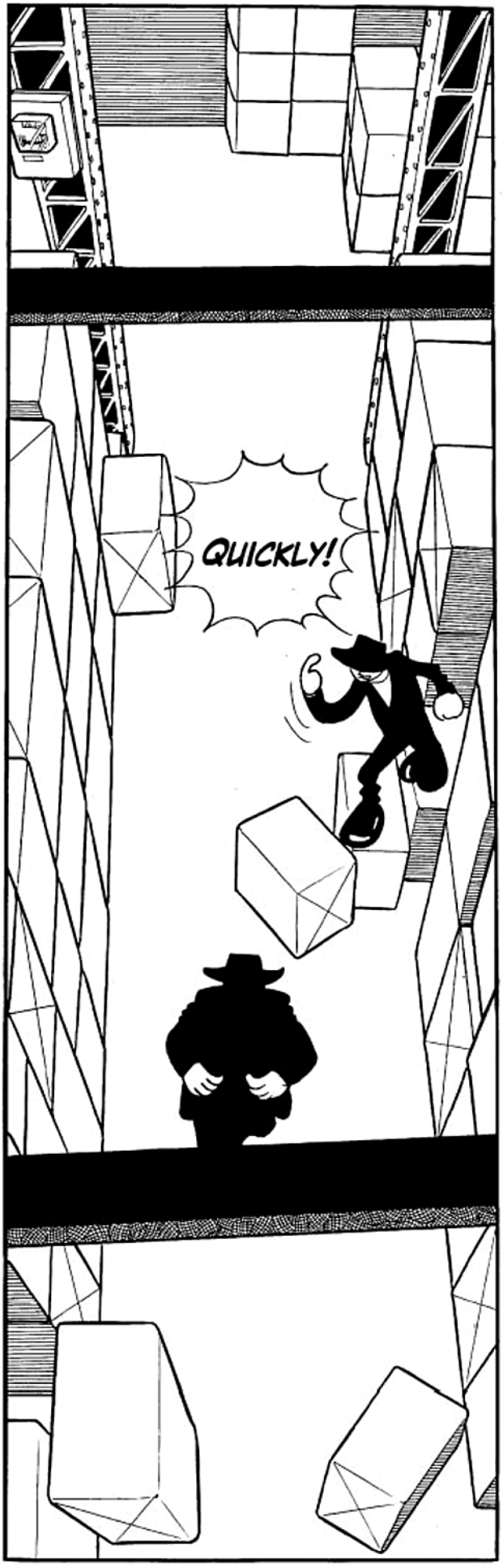
THIS WAY!
GEN! YOU-
THERE'S A WAY OUT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DOOR!
SORRY BUT DON'T HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST ME FOR THIS!
UGHH!


HEY... YOU SURE THERE'S A WAY OUT HERE?

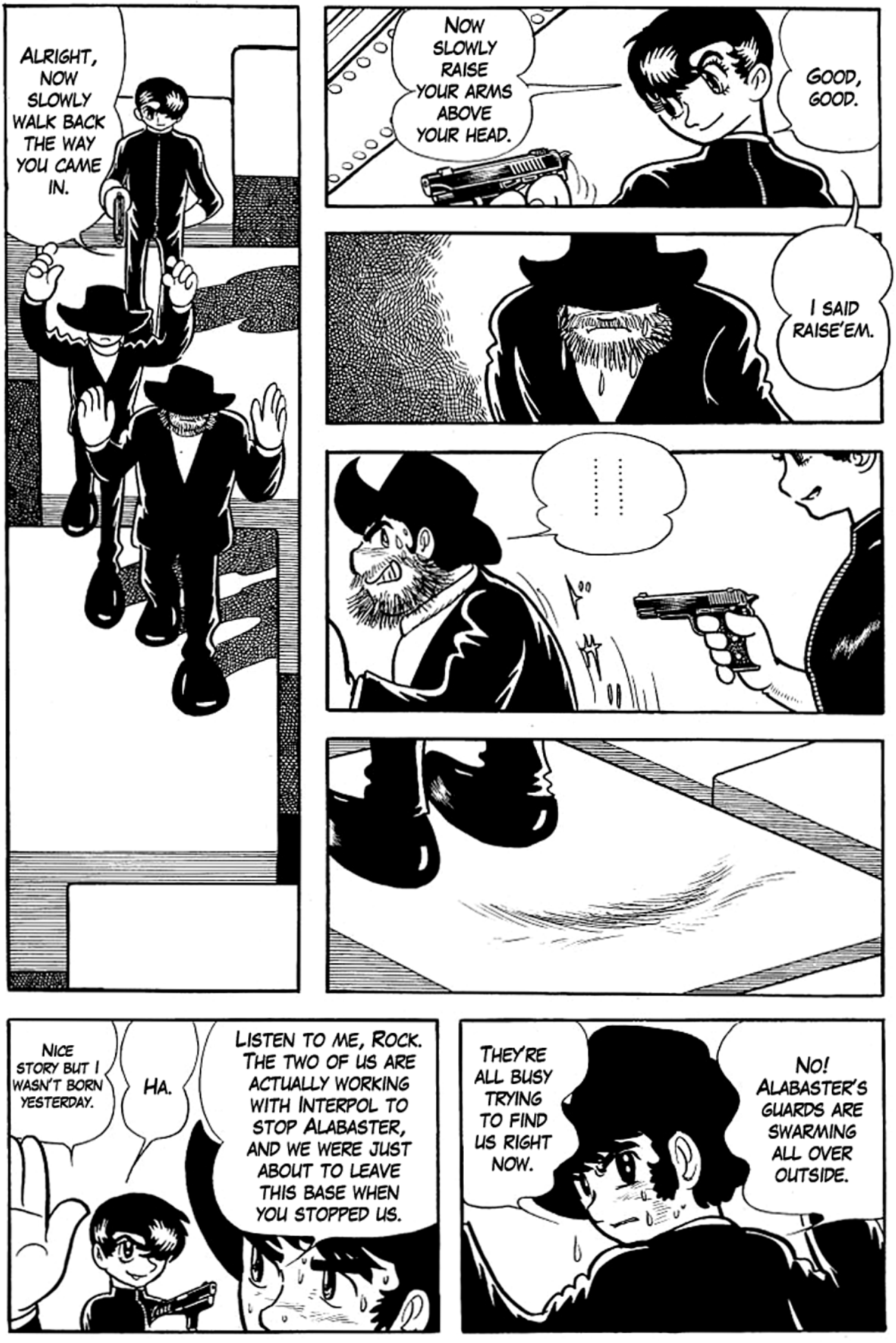

LET'S JUST HOPE THAT WE CAN MAKE IT PAST THE WATER GATES OKAY THOUGH.
YEAH, IT'S A PATH THROUGH THE SEWERS THAT'LL TAKE US ALL THE WAY OUTSIDE THE ISLAND.


AHHH!
SOMEONE'S DESTROYED THE MANHOLE!

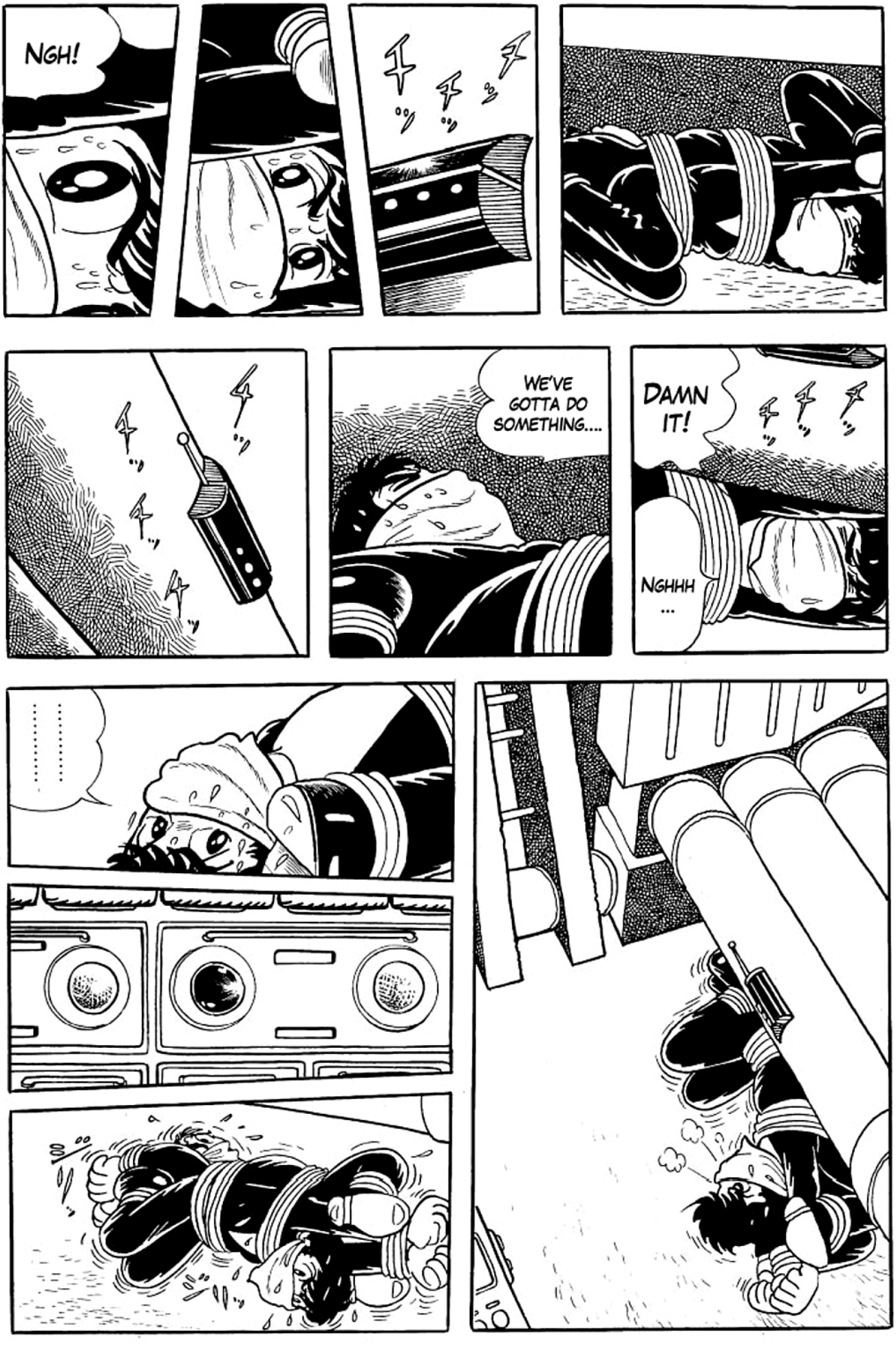

QUICKLY!

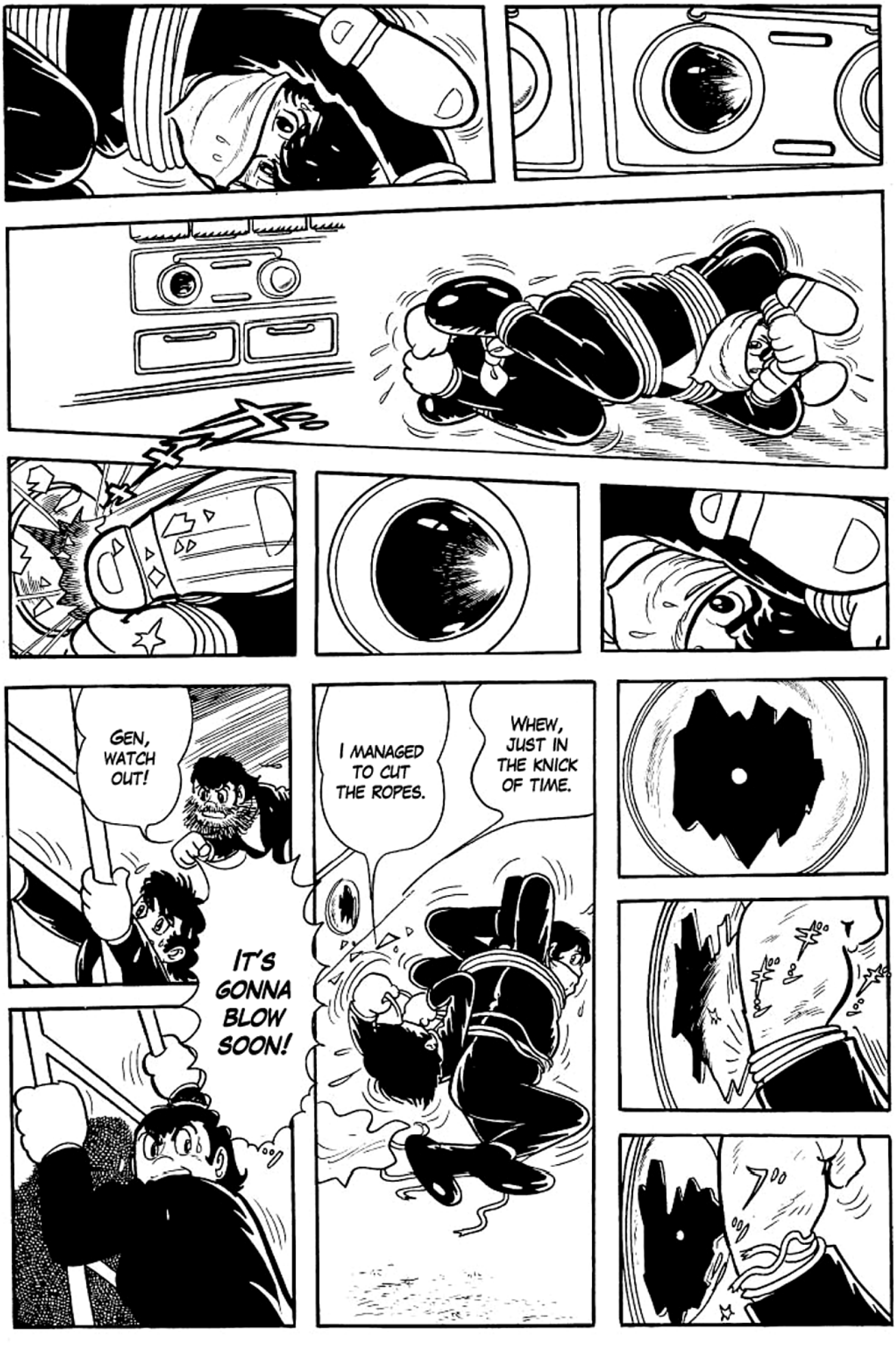
ギクリ
THAT'D BE ME, GENTS.
NOW LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT BUT I'D ADVISE YOU TO PUT YOUR GUN DOWN. NOW.
TO THINK THAT MADE-UP EXCUSE I GAVE TO THE GUARDS WOULD ACTUALLY BE TRUE...
ROCK!

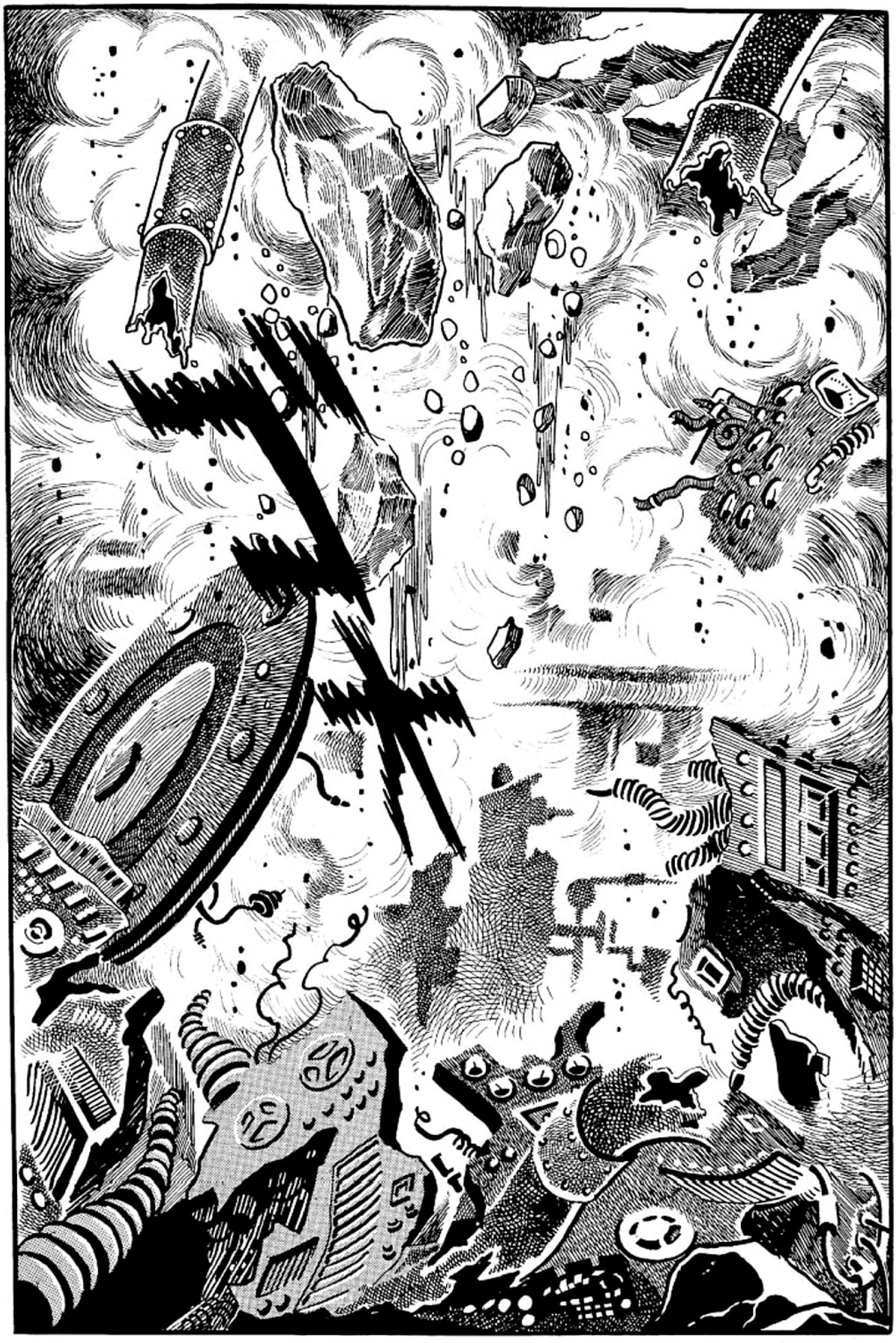
NOW KEEP ON WALKIN'.
I KNOW THE RAY-GUN FACTORY'S IN HERE SOMEWHERE. GUIDE ME TO IT.
NOW STAND, FACING THE WALLS.
IT'S HERE.
HMM... DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE LYING...

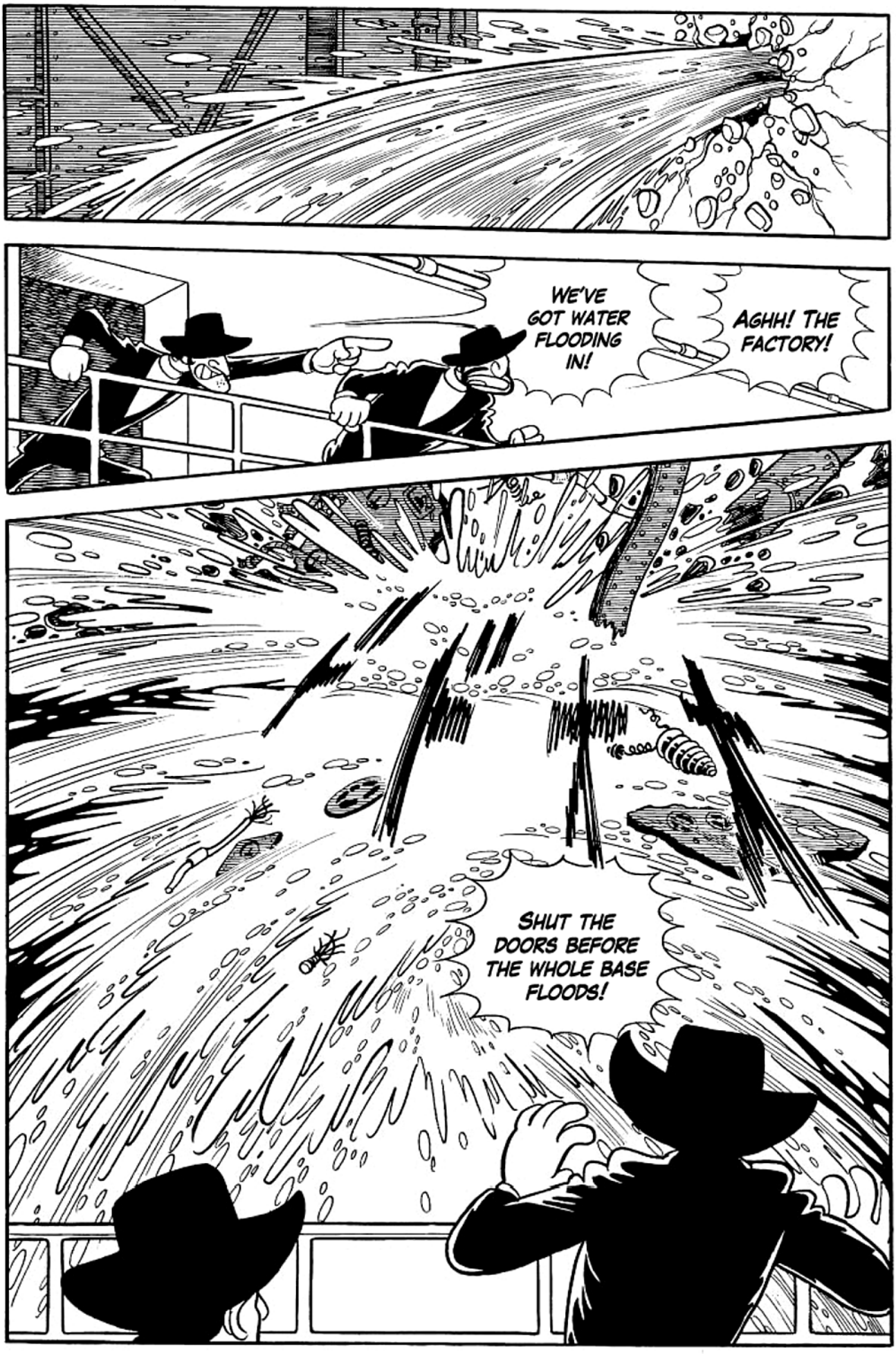

ALRIGHT, NOW SLOWLY WALK BACK THE WAY YOU CAME IN.
NOW SLOWLY RAISE YOUR ARMS ABOVE YOUR HEAD.
GOOD, GOOD.
I SAID RAISE'EM.
.....
NICE STORY BUT I WASN'T BORN YESTERDAY.
HA.
LISTEN TO ME, ROCK. THE TWO OF US ARE ACTUALLY WORKING WITH INTERPOL TO STOP ALABASTER, AND WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE THIS BASE WHEN YOU STOPPED US.
THEY'RE ALL BUSY TRYING TO FIND US RIGHT NOW.
NO! ALABASTER'S GUARDS ARE SWARMING ALL OVER OUTSIDE.

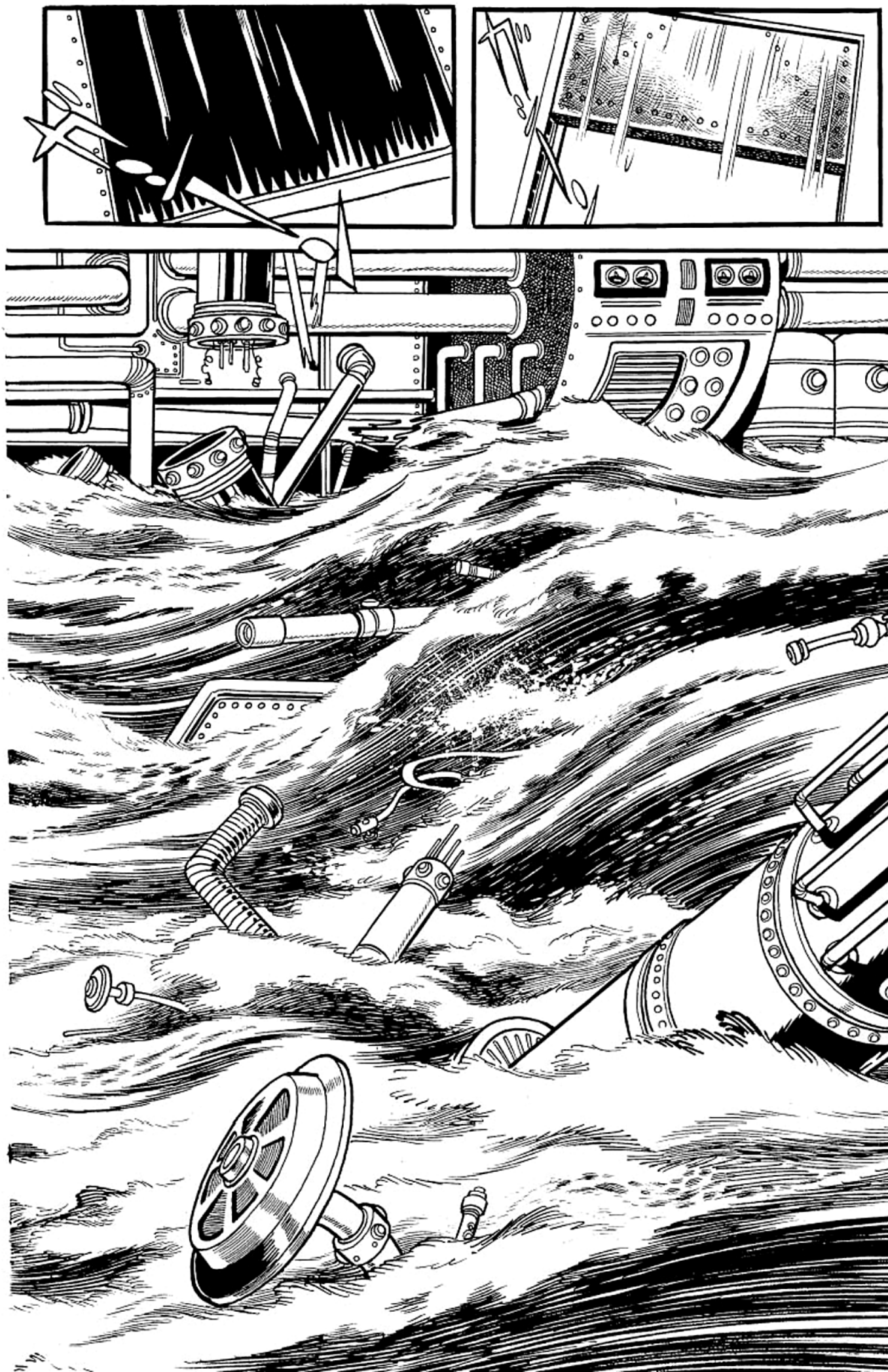
HA, I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TWO TRY TO GET OUTTA THIS ONE.
IF YOU SQUIRM, YOU'LL ONLY END UP BREAKING YOUR ARMS!
SEE YA THEN. IN 10 MINUTES, THIS PLACE WILL BLOW TO SMITHEREENS!

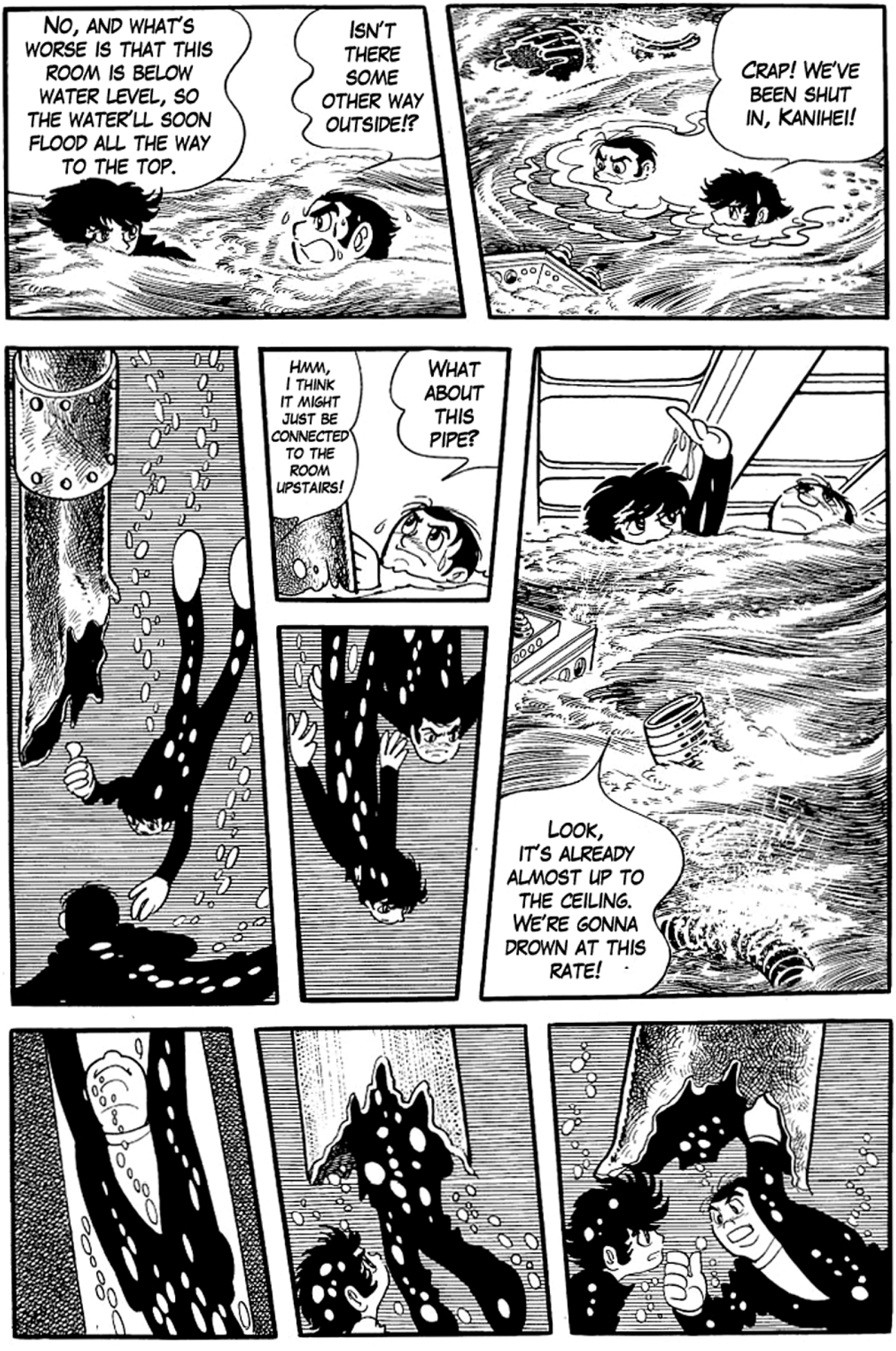

NGH!
WE'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING....
DAMN IT!
NGHHH...
.....


GEN, WATCH OUT!
IT'S GONNA BLOW SOON!
I MANAGED TO CUT THE ROPES.
WHEW, JUST IN THE KNICK OF TIME.

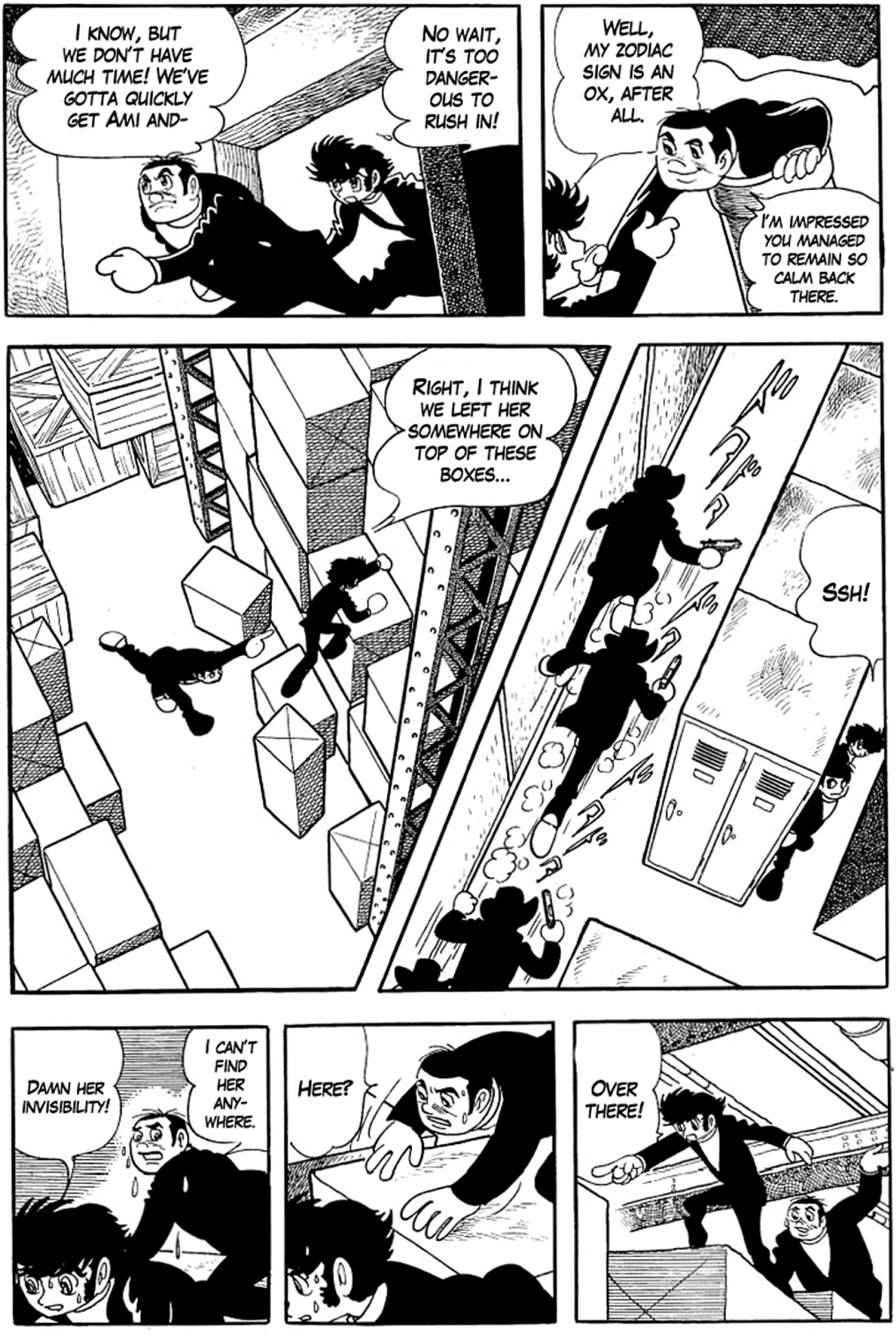



WE'VE GOT WATER FLOODING IN!
AGHH! THE FACTORY!
SHUT THE DOORS BEFORE THE WHOLE BASE FLOODS!

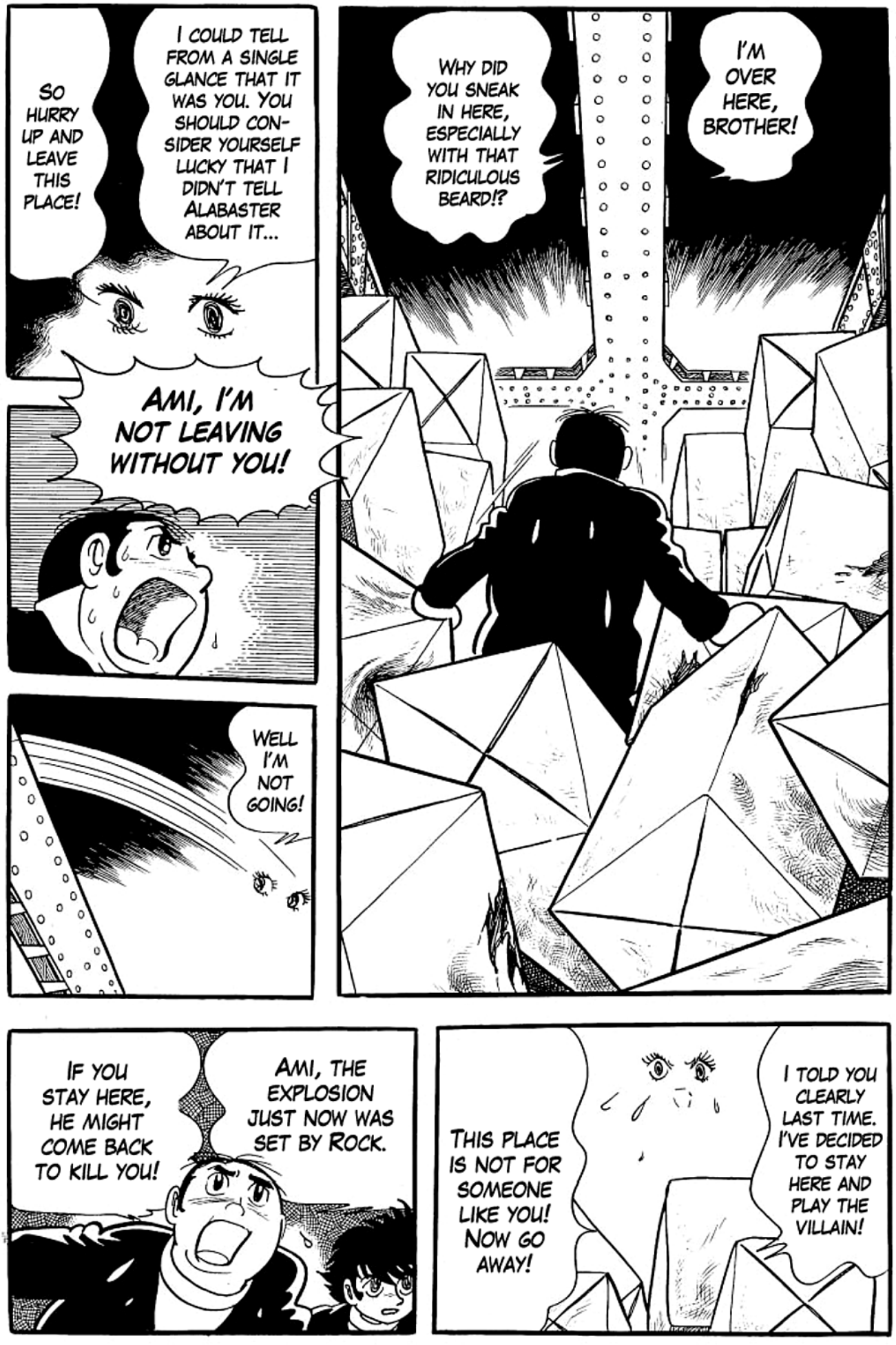


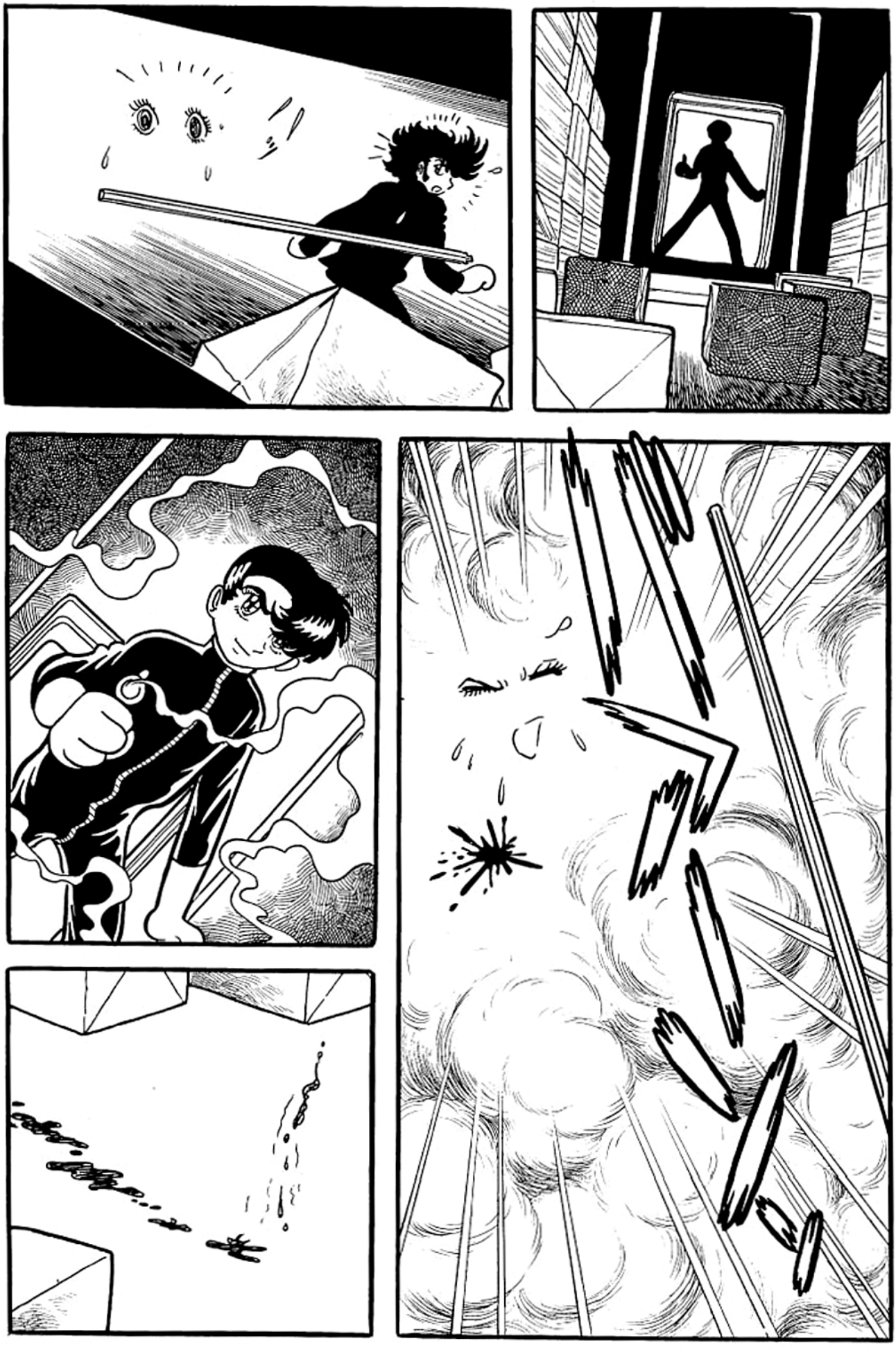

NO, AND WHAT'S WORSE IS THAT THIS ROOM IS BELOW WATER LEVEL, SO THE WATER'LL SOON FLOOD ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP.
ISN'T THERE SOME OTHER WAY OUTSIDE!?
CRAP! WE'VE BEEN SHUT IN, KANIHEI!
HMM, I THINK IT MIGHT JUST BE CONNECTED TO THE ROOM UPSTAIRS!
WHAT ABOUT THIS PIPE?
LOOK, IT'S ALREADY ALMOST UP TO THE CEILING. WE'RE GONNA DROWN AT THIS RATE!

THANKS TO THE EXPLOSION IN THE ROOM BELOW...
NO, NOT QUITE.
GREAT, THERE'S NOTHING HERE! WE'RE JUST AS TRAPPED IN HERE TOO!
WE CAN GET OUT!
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID, KANIHEI!
AH!
AND IF WE'RE LUCKY, THE PIPE WE'RE IN RIGHT NOW MIGHT BE RUPTURED FURTHER UP.
I'M WILLING TO BET THE ROOM UPSTAIRS HAS TAKEN A LOT OF DAMAGE TOO.
I'M OUT!
SO LET'S HEAD UP FOR NOW!
YOU SOUND PRETTY CONFIDENT BUT WE'RE REALLY DONE FOR THIS TIME IF IT'S JUST ANOTHER DEAD END UP THERE.


I KNOW, BUT WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME! WE'VE GOTTA QUICKLY GET AMI AND-
NO WAIT, IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS TO RUSH IN!
WELL, MY ZODIAC SIGN IS AN OX, AFTER ALL.
I'M IMPRESSED YOU MANAGED TO REMAIN SO CALM BACK THERE.
RIGHT, I THINK WE LEFT HER SOMEWHERE ON TOP OF THESE BOXES...
SSH!
DAMN HER INVISIBILITY!
I CAN'T FIND HER ANY-WHERE.
HERE?
OVER THERE!

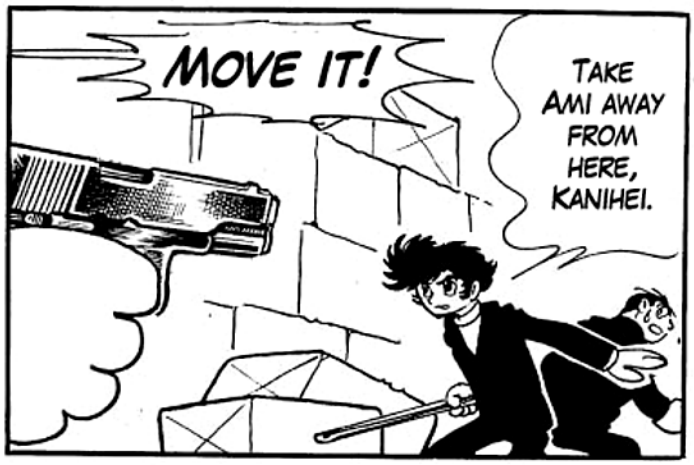
AGHH!
WHOA!
OWW...
W-WHERE ARE YOU!?
AMI, ARE YOU AWAKE !?
AMI!?
HAHA-HAHA!


I'M OVER HERE, BROTHER!
WHY DID YOU SNEAK IN HERE, ESPECIALLY WITH THAT RIDICULOUS BEARD!?
I COULD TELL FROM A SINGLE GLANCE THAT IT WAS YOU. YOU SHOULD CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY THAT I DIDN'T TELL ALABASTER ABOUT IT...
SO HURRY UP AND LEAVE THIS PLACE!
AMI, I'M NOT LEAVING WITHOUT YOU!
WELL I'M NOT GOING!
AMI, THE EXPLOSION JUST NOW WAS SET BY ROCK.
IF YOU STAY HERE, HE MIGHT COME BACK TO KILL YOU!
I TOLD YOU CLEARLY LAST TIME. I'VE DECIDED TO STAY HERE AND PLAY THE VILLAIN!
THIS PLACE IS NOT FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU! NOW GO AWAY!



LEAVE NOW OR ELSE...
THAT'S IT, I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
WHA?
YOU CAN'T HANDLE ROCK!
ROCK WAS HERE? PERFECT! THIS IS FINALLY MY CHANCE FOR REVENGE.
NO, AMI!
AMI, THIS IS MY FINAL WARNING TO YOU. YOU HAVE TO LEAVE ALABASTER!
AMI, STOP! THAT'S DANGER-OUS!

AMI!


MOVE IT!
TAKE AMI AWAY FROM HERE, KANIHEI.

YOU AGAIN?
HOW'RE YOU STILL ALIVE?
AGH, WHATEVER. JUST GET OUTTA MY WAY!

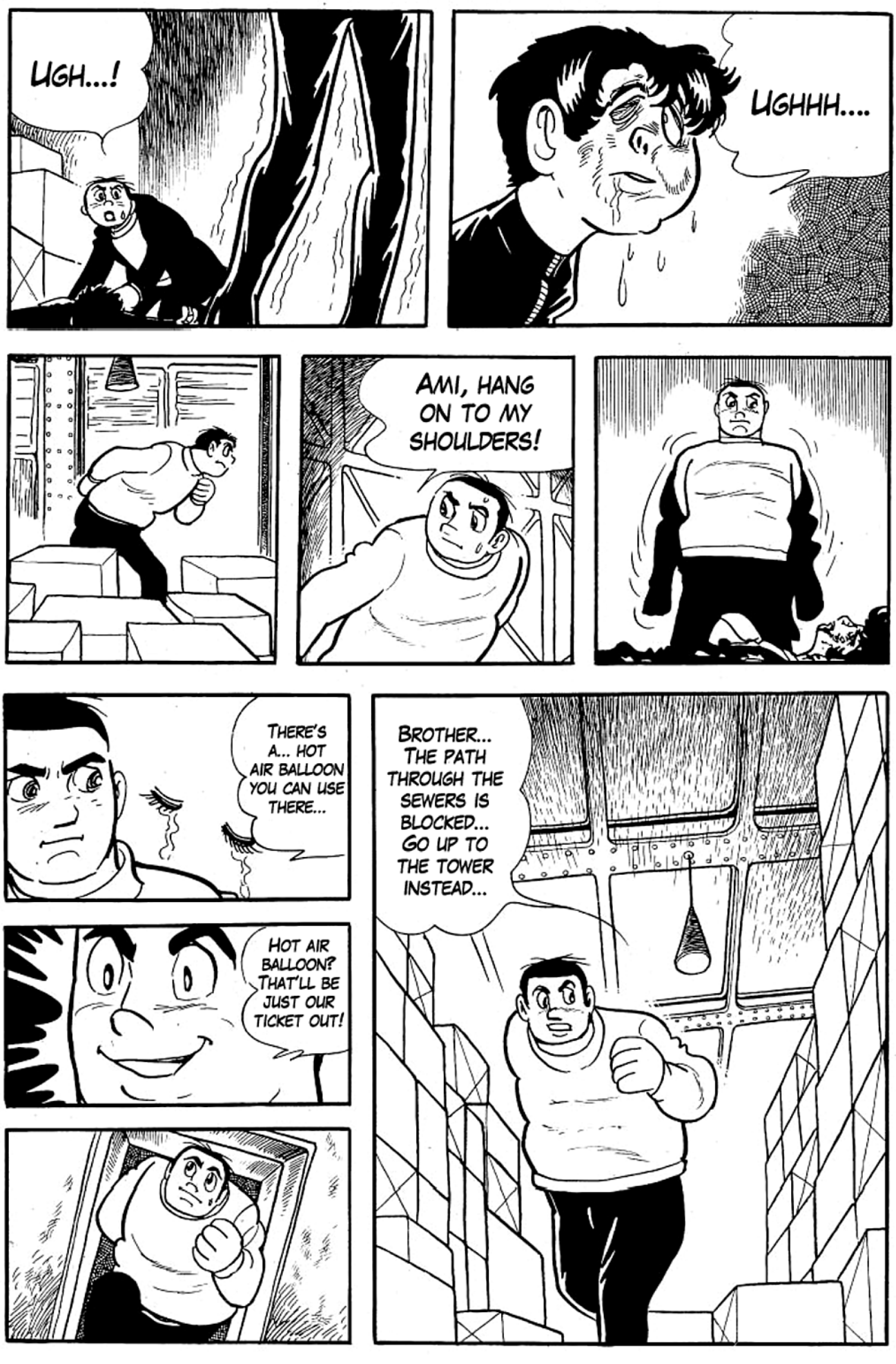
I'M NOT GONNA REPEAT MY-SELF.

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
AGHH...
カーン
カーン

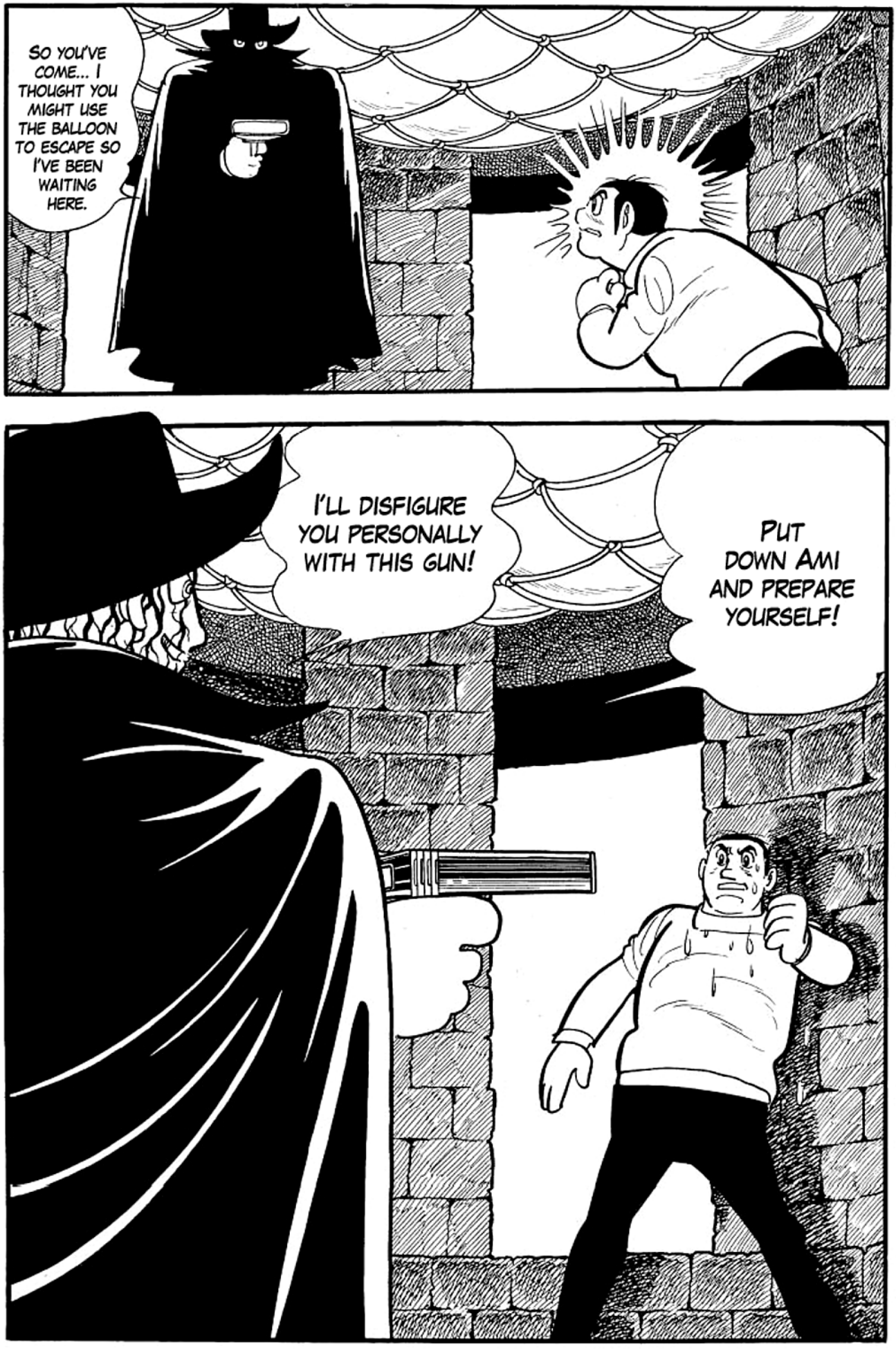
AHHHH!
AGHHHH!
UGHH...

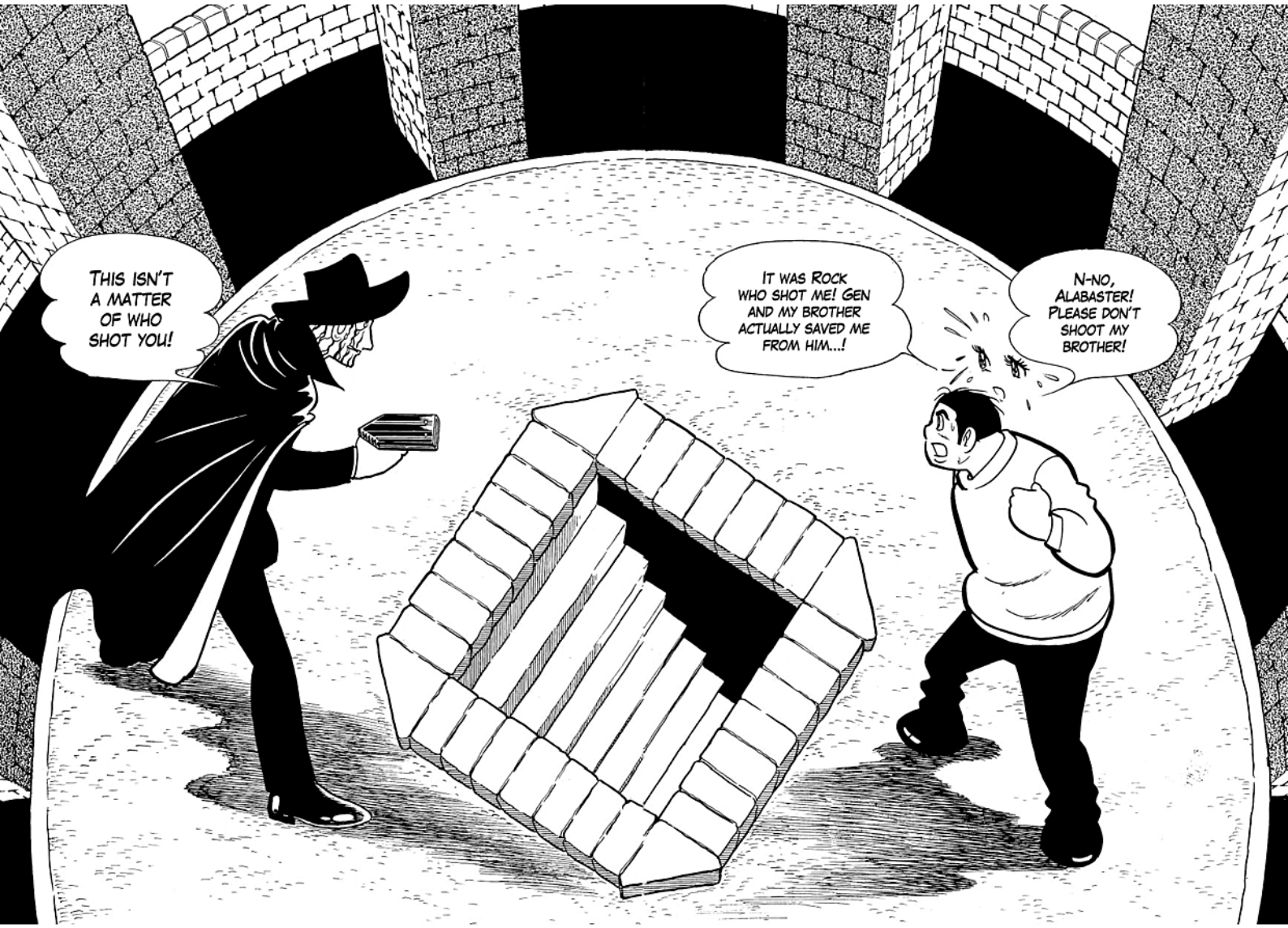
AMI!
DON'T WORRY, IT'S MISSED YOUR VITALS IF IT HIT YOUR SHOULDER. I'LL SAVE YOU SO JUST HANG IN THERE.
M-MY SHOULDER... I THINK I'M DONE FOR...
AMI, HANG IN THERE! WHERE DID HE SHOOT YOU!?
WHAT ABOUT GEN...?
OH!
AHH!

I... I WANTED TO SEE HER FACE... ONE MORE TIME... LET ME AT LEAST... HOLD HER HAND...
W... WHERE'S... AMI...?
I... I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU...
AMI...
AGHHH....
M-MY FACE...! THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FACE IN THE WORLD...!


UGH...!
UGHHH....
AMI, HANG ON TO MY SHOULDERS!
THERE'S A... HOT AIR BALLOON YOU CAN USE THERE...
HOT AIR BALLOON? THAT'LL BE JUST OUR TICKET OUT!
BROTHER... THE PATH THROUGH THE SEWERS IS BLOCKED... GO UP TO THE TOWER INSTEAD...

THIS MUST BE THE TOWER.
WE'RE HERE!
AMI, HANG IN THERE! DON'T FALL ASLEEP!
JUST HOLD ON FOR 1 MORE HOUR! I'LL GET YOU TO A DOCTOR BY THEN!


SO YOU'VE COME... I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT USE THE BALLOON TO ESCAPE SO I'VE BEEN WAITING HERE.
I'LL DISFIGURE YOU PERSONALLY WITH THIS GUN!
PUT DOWN AMI AND PREPARE YOURSELF!

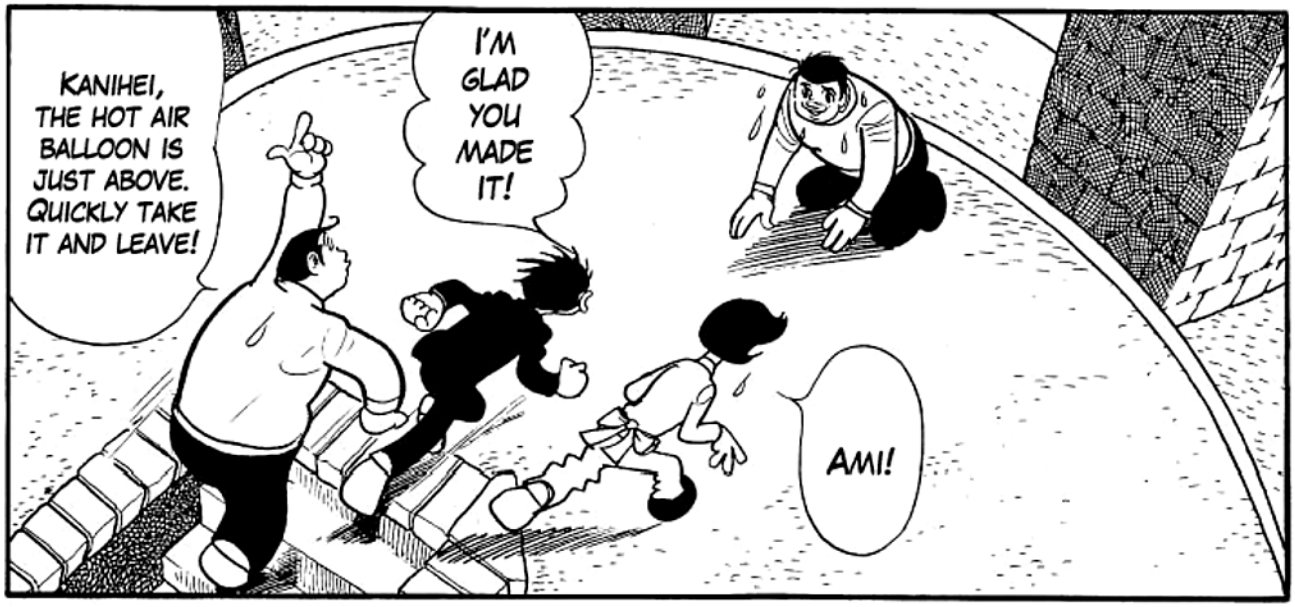

THIS ISN'T A MATTER OF WHO SHOT YOU!
IT WAS ROCK WHO SHOT ME! GEN AND MY BROTHER ACTUALLY SAVED ME FROM HIM...!
N-NO, ALABASTER! PLEASE DON'T SHOOT MY BROTHER!

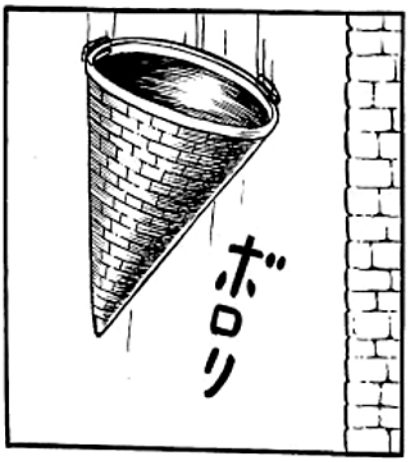
I REALIZED HOW HE'D BEEN SINCERELY TRYING TO SAVE ME ALL ALONG.
YES, AND AS HE DIED...
GEN DIED!?
GEN FOUGHT BRAVELY AND DIED TRYING TO SAVE ME...
YOU AN' I ARE KINDRED SOULS! WE SEE EYE TO EYE!
YOU'RE THE SAME AS I AM...
SEE EYE TO EYE? YOU'RE CRAZY!
ALABASTER! I CAN'T STAY WITH YOU ANYMORE... YOU ALWAYS TWIST PEOPLE'S WORDS AROUND TO FORCE YOUR POINT OF VIEW ON OTHERS. I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
I HATE YOU!
NO!
BUT I'VE COME TO SEE SOMETHING ELSE... I'VE SEEN BEAUTY THAT CAN NEVER BE DESTROYED OR TAINTED... SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND...
YOUR EYES CAN ONLY SEE BEAUTY THAT CAN BE EASILY TWISTED AND DESTROYED!

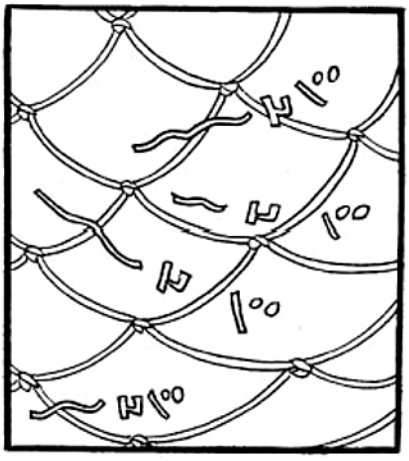
NO! DON'T HAND ME OVER, BROTHER!
HMPH...
I'M NOT LETTIN' GO OF YOU, AMI!
KANIHEI! HAND HER OVER!
AGHHH!

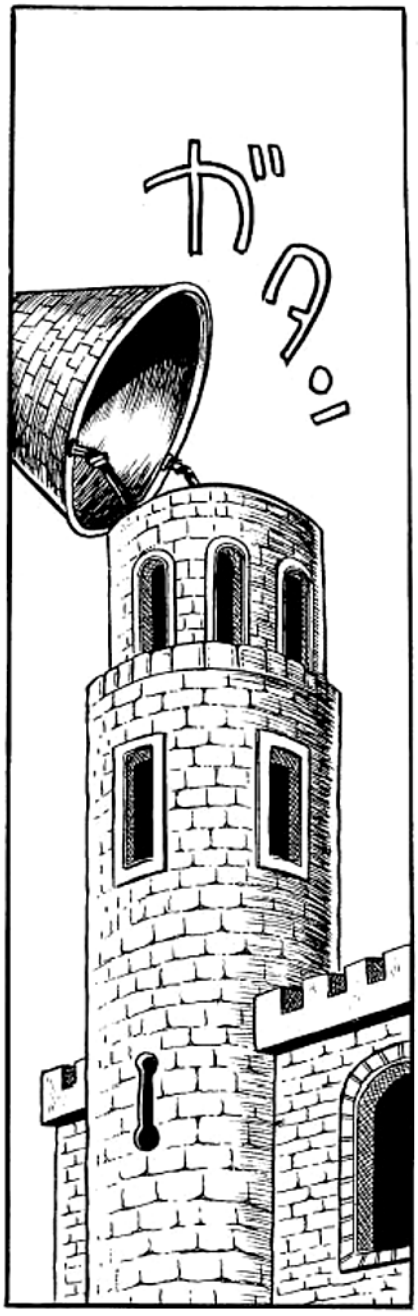
AGHHHHHH!
UGHHHH...

THAT'S FOR GEN'S DEATH!


KANIHEI, THE HOT AIR BALLOON IS JUST ABOVE. QUICKLY TAKE IT AND LEAVE!
I'M GLAD YOU MADE IT!
AMI!


ボロリ




ガラ〜

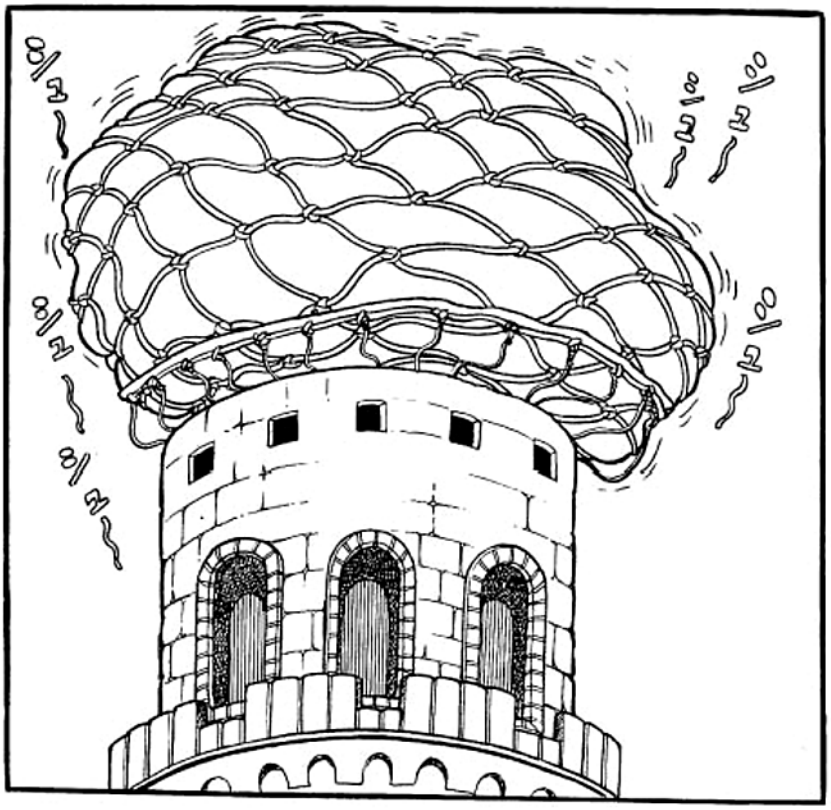
HE DIED A HERO'S DEATH, DIDN'T HE?
WE FOUND GEN'S CORPSE DOWNSTAIRS.

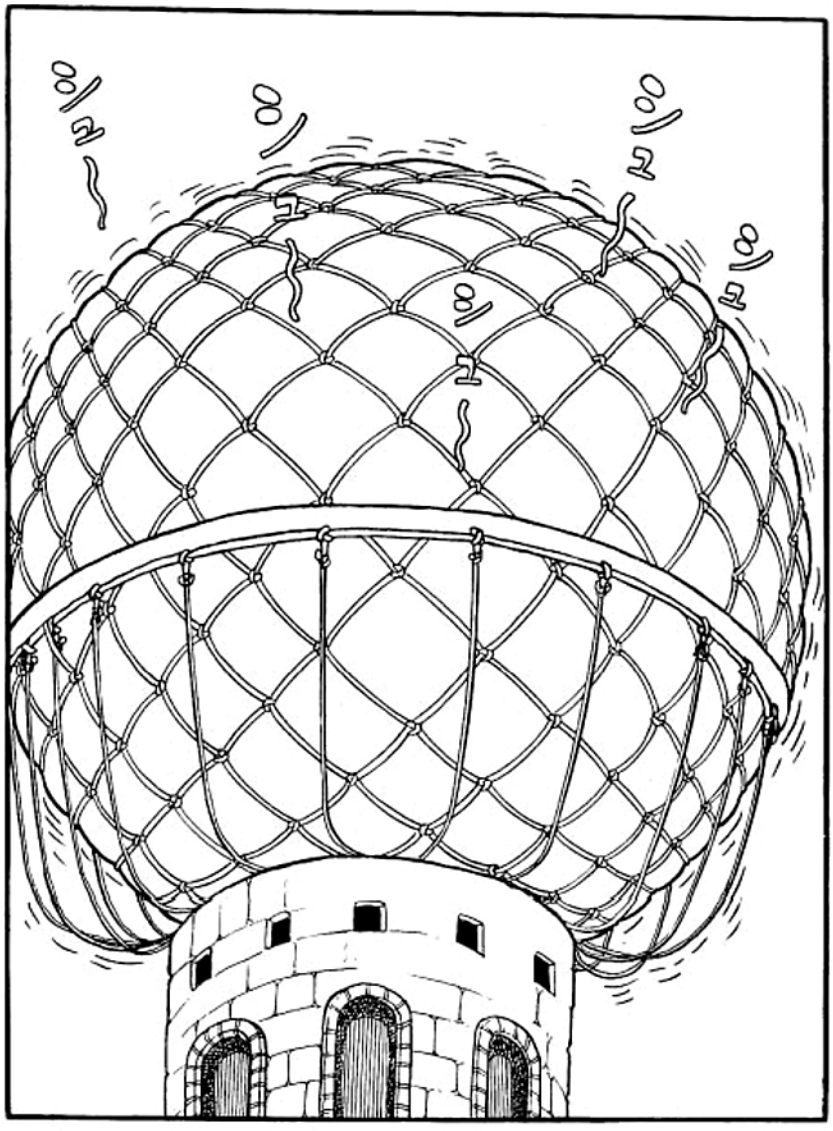
THE ROOF WILL OPEN IF YOU PULL THIS,
AND THE HOT AIR SHOULD START FILLING ON ITS OWN.

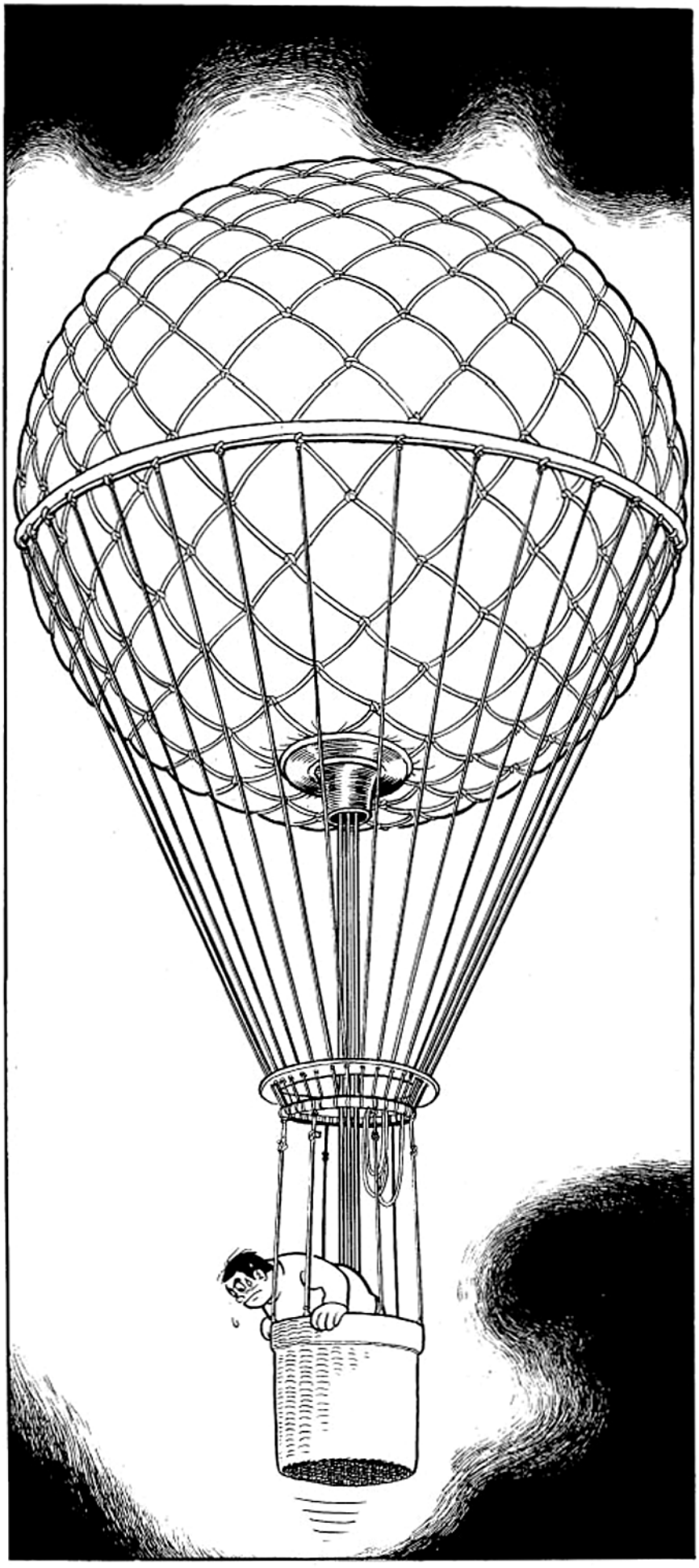
WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS?
QUICKLY, GET ON!

THERE'S ONLY ENOUGH ROOM FOR TWO ON THAT. ALABASTER HAD IT SPECIALLY MADE IT SO ONLY HE AND AMI COULD USE IT.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT US! WE'LL FIND OUR WAY OUT EVEN IF WE HAVE TO SWIM ACROSS THE LAKE!
BUT THE MILITARY'S GONNA BOMB THIS PLACE WITH MISSILES 5 MINUTES AFTER I LEAVE!
RIGHT, GUYS!?



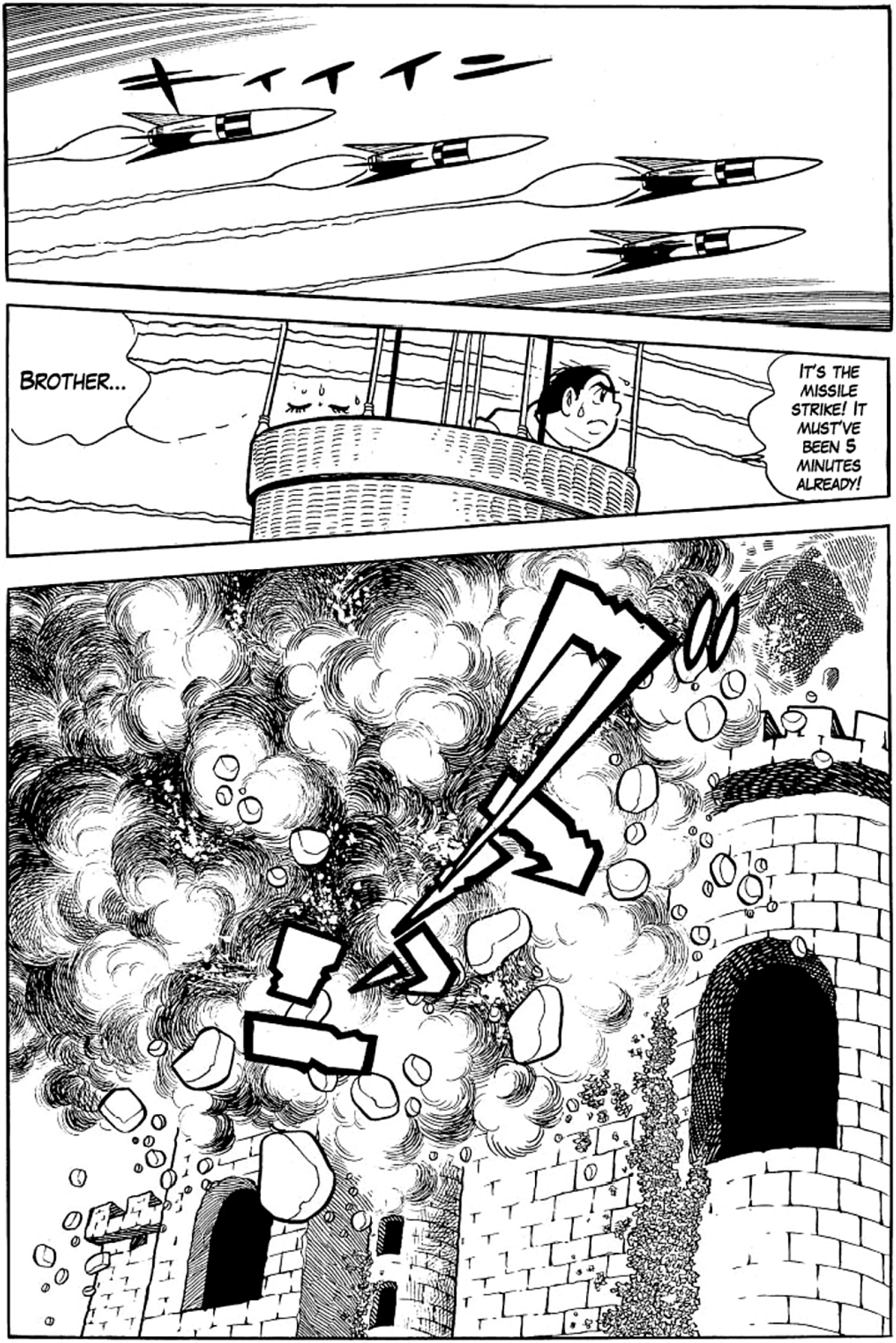




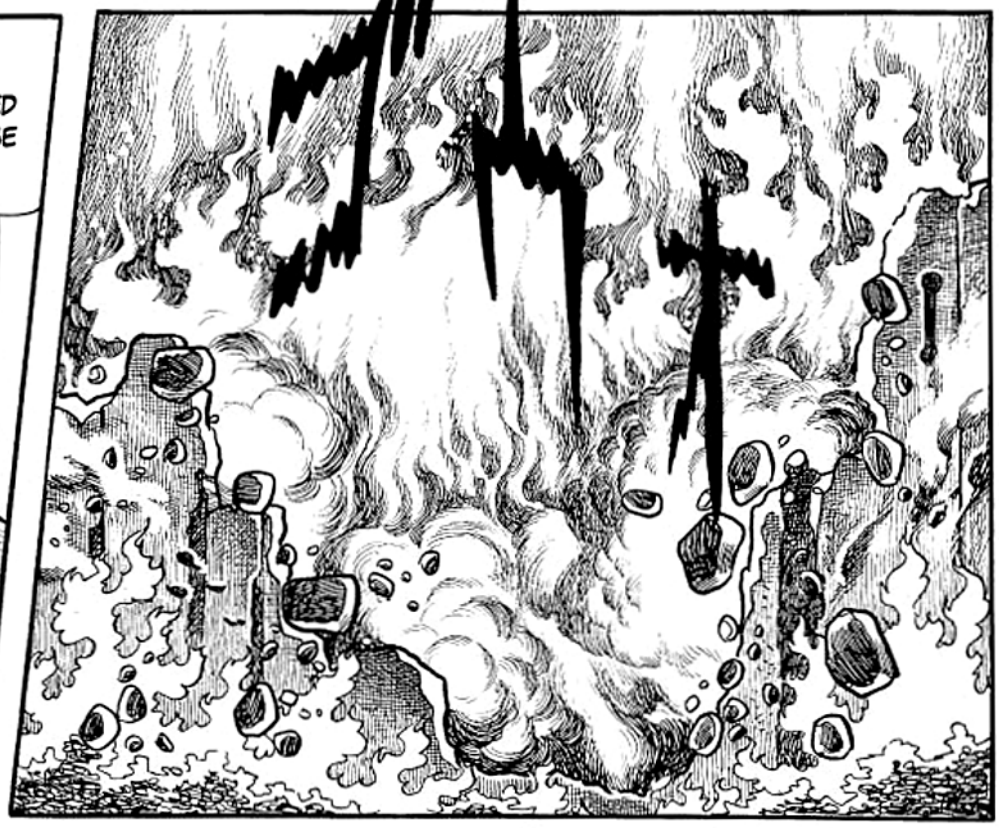
TAKE CARE!
THANKS FOR THE WARNING THOUGH.

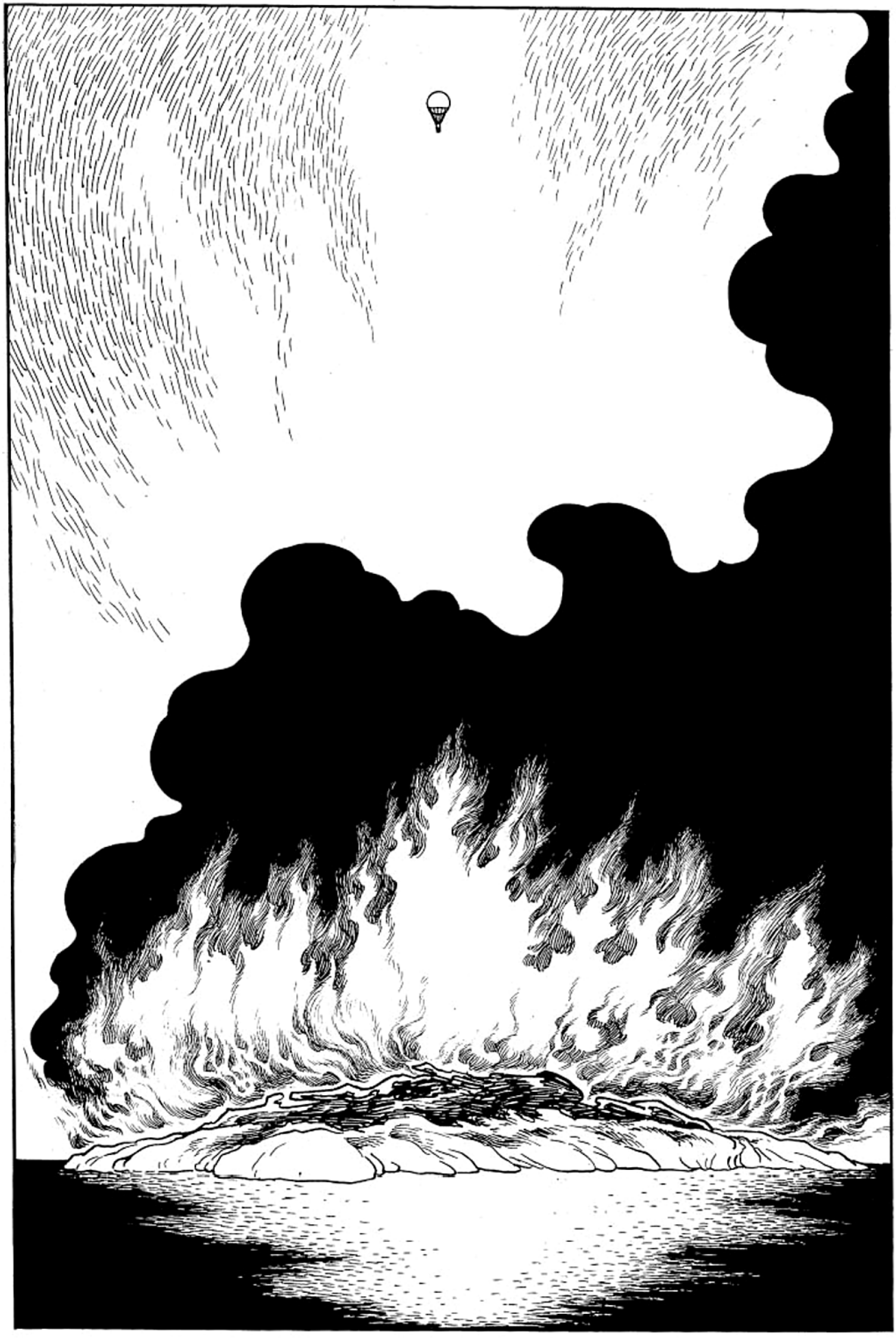
WELL, IT'S TOO LATE TO RUN NOW.
WE'RE COMING, GEN. WHETHER LIFE OR DEATH, WE'LL ALWAYS STICK TOGETHER.

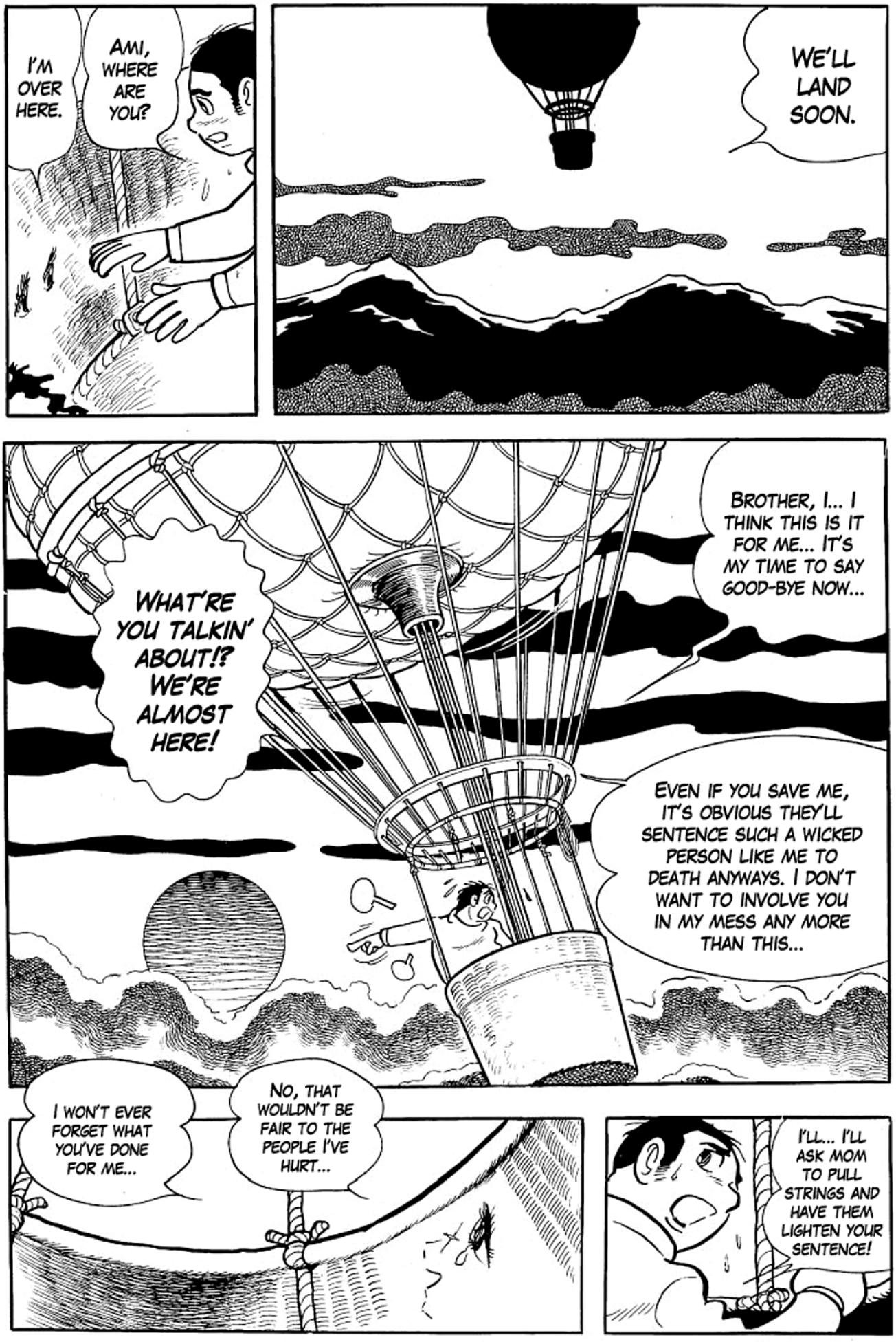
ドドドドド
バババババ
ムーン
ムーン
ムーン
ムーン
ムーン


キィイイン
BROTHER...
IT'S THE MISSILE STRIKE! IT MUST'VE BEEN 5 MINUTES ALREADY!

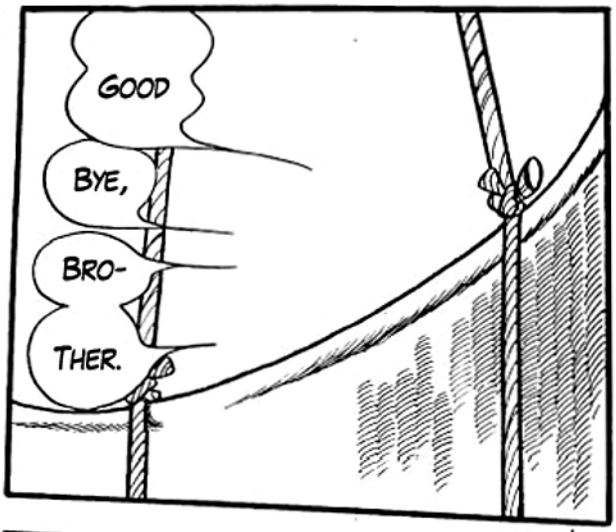
WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE 3...?
I... DON'T THINK THEY MADE IT...



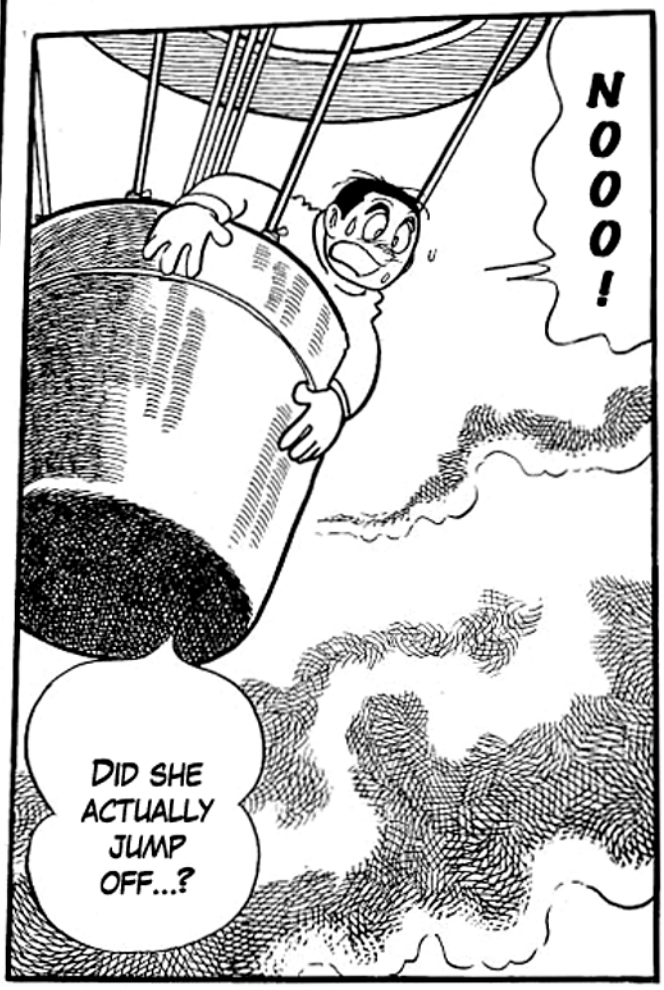


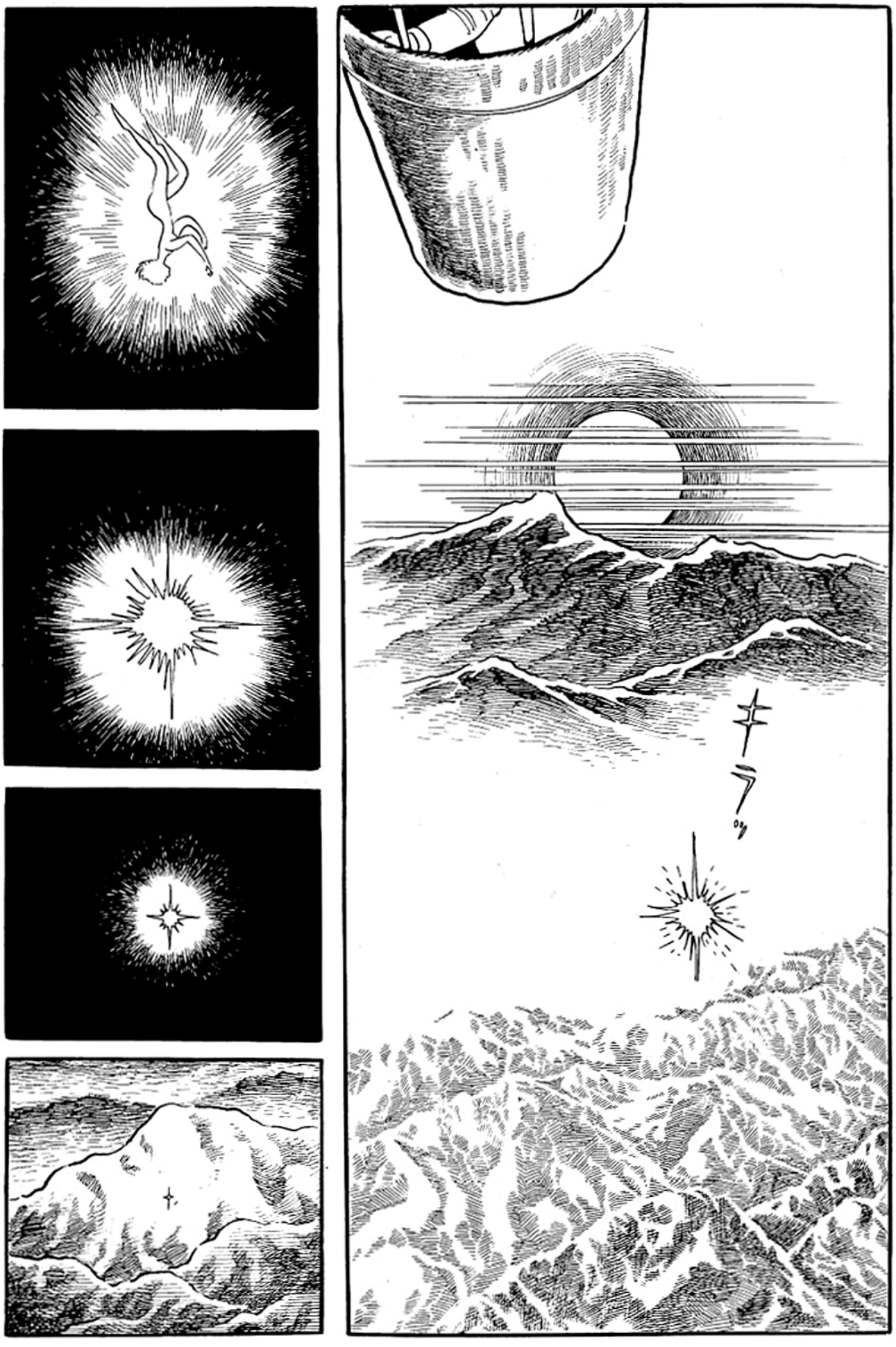

I'M OVER HERE.
AMI, WHERE ARE YOU?
WE'LL LAND SOON.
BROTHER, I... I THINK THIS IS IT FOR ME... IT'S MY TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE NOW...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT!? WE'RE ALMOST HERE!
EVEN IF YOU SAVE ME, IT'S OBVIOUS THEY'LL SENTENCE SUCH A WICKED PERSON LIKE ME TO DEATH ANYWAYS. I DON'T WANT TO INVOLVE YOU IN MY MESS ANY MORE THAN THIS...
I WON'T EVER FORGET WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME...
NO, THAT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO THE PEOPLE I'VE HURT...
I'LL... I'LL ASK MOM TO PULL STRINGS AND HAVE THEM LIGHTEN YOUR SENTENCE!

AMIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII!!!


GOOD
BYE,
BRO-
THER.

AMIII!


NOOO!
DID SHE ACTUALLY JUMP OFF...?



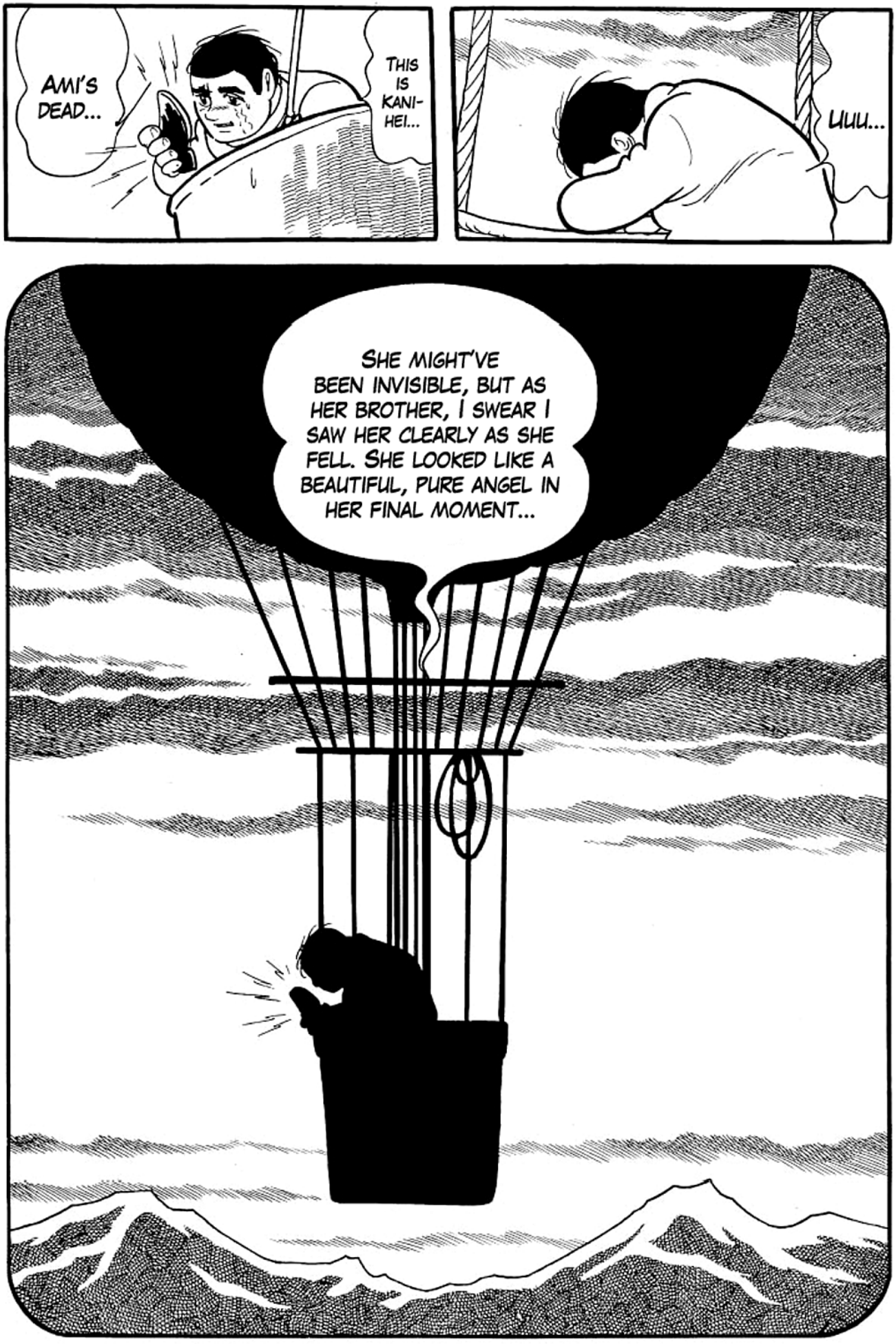
Afterword

Of the numerous manga I've drawn over the years, there are a few works which I just don't quite like the idea of re-printing no matter how many times the publishing companies ask for my permission. To name a few, they'd be Dust8, Burunga I, Hurricane Z... and Alabaster. There are several reasons for this. For one, the reception and popularity during these stories' original run were very low, and some even went through hiatuses. Other reasons for my lack of enthusiasm ranges from dissatisfaction at the personality or style of a certain character, or the way in which discrimination or some other subject matter was handled. But since I've agreed to let my entire anthology be reprinted, I couldn't just say no to these works as well. And among the most requested works for a reprint was this work, Alabaster.

Concerning Alabaster, I was especially uncomfortable with how dark the story turned out. Looking back, I consider it as a failed attempt to emulate a grotesque thriller in the style of Edogawa Rampo's "*The Dwarf*," or "*Beast in the Shadows.*" I felt that I had once again made the mistake of going too far in creating such a thoroughly nihilistic work.

I can't help but dislike just about every character in this work. Rock and Gen were two characters whom I especially disliked and I didn't even want to draw them at many times. It's only thanks to my drive for work that I managed to finish this, especially considering that it was written during a time when my career had been going through a low point.

The famous Kita Morio who often described himself as manic-depressive once called me the "eternal manic-depressant," but in my defense, I must say this is quite an exaggeration. My depression period only really lasted for 3~4 years. But in any case, I think the reason why I feel so unsatisfied with these aforementioned "failures" was because I had written it during such a low point in my life.


AMI'S DEAD...
THIS IS KANI-HEI...
UUU...
SHE MIGHT'VE BEEN INVISIBLE, BUT AS HER BROTHER, I SWEAR I SAW HER CLEARLY AS SHE FELL. SHE LOOKED LIKE A BEAUTIFUL, PURE ANGEL IN HER FINAL MOMENT...

アラバスター

昭和45年12月21日号～昭和46年６月28日号

少年チャンピオン　連載

読者の皆さまへ

「手塚治虫漫画全集」の作品の中には、アフリカの黒人や、東南アジアの人々をはじめ多くの外国人の姿が出てきます。それらの絵の一部は、いかにも未開発国当時の姿だったり、過去の時代を誇張していて、現在の状況とは大きな違いがあります。最近、このような描き方は黒人や一部の外国人に対する人種差別であるという指摘がなされております。こうした絵に不快感を覚え、侮辱されていると感じる人がいる以上、私たちはその声に真剣に耳を傾けなければならないと思います。

しかしながら、人々の特徴を誇張してパロディー化するということは、漫画のユーモアの最も重要な手法のひとつです。手塚作品では特にそれが顕著で、多くの国の人がパロディー化の対象になっています。また作者は人間に限らず、動植物の世界から想像の世界のものたちまでもユーモアたっぷりにキャラクター化しています。それは作者の自画像でさえ例外ではなく、彼の鼻は実際よりも数倍大きく描かれています。また作者はつねに文明と非文明、先進国と発展途上国、権力者と弱者、金持ちと貧者、健常者と障害者など、すべての憎悪と対立は悪であるという信念を持ちつづけた人で、物語の底には強い「人間愛」が流れています。

私たちが今あえてこの「手塚治虫漫画全集」を刊行しつづけるのは、作者がすでに故人で作品の改訂が不可能であることと、第三者が故人の作品に手を加えることは、著作者人格権上の問題もさることながら、当該問題を考えてゆくうえでも決して適切な処置とは思えないこと、加えて私たちには日本の文化遺産と評価される作品を守ってゆく責務があると考えるからです。もとより私たちは地球上のあらゆる差別に反対し、差別が無くなるよう努めてまいります。それが出版に携わる者の責任であると考えます。読者の皆さまも、この手塚作品に接するのを契機に、さまざまな差別が存在している事実を認識し、この問題への理解を深めてくださいますようお願いいたします。

手塚プロダクション／講談社

あなたは、この〝手塚治虫漫画全集〟を読んで、どんな感想をお持ちになりましたか。

編集部では、この手塚先生の全集について、読者の方たちのご意見をお待ちしています。

手塚先生の作品で、読みたいもの、いちばん好きなもの等、ご希望がありましたら、「読後の感想」と合わせて、左記のところあてに、どしどしお知らせください。

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ロックにはずかしめられた亜美は、その憎しみを美しいものへの復讐に誓う!!　殺人をくり返すアラバスターと亜美――亜美を救うため、ゲンはカニ平とともに、アラバスターに戦いをいどむ!!　話題のSF大作、完結編!!

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《著者紹介》 本名，治。1928年11月３日，大阪府豊中市生まれ。大阪大学医学専門部卒業。医学博士。1946年「マァチャンの日記帳」でデビュー。1947年「新宝島」が大ヒットする。以来，日本のストーリー漫画の確立に尽くす。また，アニメーションの世界でも，大きな業績を残す。代表作に「鉄腕アトム」をはじめ「リボンの騎士」「火の鳥」「ジャングル大帝」「ブラック・ジャック」「ブッダ」「アドルフに告ぐ」等がある。